



## DREAM DEBUT

Actor Sweta Tiwari's daughter Palak to debut opposite Salman Khan in *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali*

LEISURE P2



## 416 REVAMPED SCHOOLS

CM Naveen Patnaik dedicates to the people 416 high schools, transformed with modern facilities in five districts

DOWNTOWN P4



## PANEL BLAMES TRUMP

The House panel investigating the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol lays the blame firmly on Donald Trump

INTERNATIONAL P10

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rupee hits fresh lifetime low of 77.93

**Mumbai:** The rupee tumbled 19 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 77.93 against the US dollar Friday as rising crude oil prices and unabated foreign capital outflows soured sentiment. A sell-off in equity markets and a stronger greenback overseas also weighed on the domestic unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 77.81 and witnessed an intraday high of 77.79 and a low of 77.93 against the US dollar. The local unit finally settled at its all-time low of 77.93, down 19 paise over its previous close of 77.74.

### Vig officer sacked on graft charges

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha DGP SK Bansal Friday dismissed Vigilance inspector Manasi Jena, who was under suspension on corruption charges, from service with immediate effect. Jena and her associate Mukesh Sahu had reportedly demanded a bribe of ₹20 lakh from a senior Odisha government official to close a petition against him which was pending with her. May 13, Jena was caught red-handed along with Sahu by the internal Vigilance unit while accepting a bribe of ₹10 lakh as advance from the above-mentioned government servant. **MORE P3**

### Strengthen highway patrol: State to CB

**Bhubaneswar:** In an aim to curb road mishaps on national highways, the state government has asked the crime branch (CB) to strengthen enforcement activities by highway patrol teams. Commerce and Transport Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has written a letter to ADG crime branch for this purpose. Highway patrol has been rolled out in five vulnerable stretches of roads in the state having 36 mini stretches with the objective to reduce road accidents and fatalities. It is the duty of highway patrol teams to detect traffic rule violations and shift road accident victims to the nearest hospital, Sethi said. **MORE P3**

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Does that mean there won't be any hike in fuel prices till next month?

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	54303.44 ↓ 1016.84
NIFTY	16201.80 ↓ 276.30
DOLLAR	78.14 ↑ ₹0.31
EURO	82.16 ↓ ₹0.40
GOLD	₹50,759 ↓ ₹249
SILVER	₹60,864 ↓ ₹547

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 31.0°C	31.2°C
	MIN 28.8°C	28.5°C
Humidity	89%	82%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
		Partly cloudy sky

# GLADIATORS ARRIVE



Cricketers of the South African and Indian teams were accorded a traditional welcome upon their arrival at a hotel in Bhubaneswar, Friday for the second T20 International which will be played at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Sunday

## Thunderstorm for next 4 days

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday said thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur in some districts of the state during the next four days. The IMD has issued yellow warnings for several districts. Thunderstorms with lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Gajapati and Mayurbhanj, Saturday. Similarly, a few places of Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Bolangir, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts to witness similar climatic condition on the next day (June 12). Predicting thunderstorm June 13, the Met department has issued yellow warning for Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore district.

# Protests in many states over Prophet remarks

**Huge protests held in many parts of the country after Friday prayers. Cops injured in stone-pelting in Jharkhand. Curfew imposed in some areas of Jammu, shutdown in parts of Kashmir**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi/Srinagar, June 10:** Protests broke out in many states Friday including outside Delhi's Jama Masjid over the controversial remarks on Prophet Mohammad by two now-suspended BJP functionaries with demonstrators in Jharkhand injuring policemen while authorities in Jammu imposed a curfew and parts of Kashmir observed a shutdown. At some places, the protesters pelted the police with stones prompting the latter to baton charge them

and use tear gas shells. In Delhi, the protesters massed outside the historic Jama Masjid after the Friday prayers demanding the arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. Several students of Jamia Millia Islamia staged a demonstration on the varsity campus here and demanded the arrest of Sharma. In Jharkhand, some policemen were injured while trying to control demonstrators near Hanuman Temple situated on Ranchi's Main Road. Police fired in air and resorted to baton charge to control the protesters who spilled out on the road after the Friday prayers and pelted stones and shouted slogans. Tension mounted in Jammu's Bhatnagar and some areas of Kashmir prompting authorities to impose curfew while parts of Kashmir observed a shutdown. Internet services were snapped

in the Bhatnagar and Kishtwar towns and Srinagar city of Kashmir as a precautionary measure. Mobile Internet was also suspended in parts of Kashmir, officials said. Protests also broke out at several places in Uttar Pradesh with policemen pelted with stones by people in Prayagraj and Saharanpur after Friday prayers. In Prayagraj, some motorcycles and carts were set on fire and an attempt made to set ablaze a police vehicle. Police used tear gas and batons to disperse the demonstrators and peace was later restored, officials said, adding one policeman was hurt in Prayagraj. There was slogan-shouting against Sharma. In Saharanpur, the protesters demanded death sentence for her. There were also protests in Bijnor, Moradabad, Rampur and Lucknow. Sloganeering took place in Lucknow. **Contd...P4**



Miscreants pelt stones at police during a protest over controversial remarks made by two now-suspended BJP leaders about Prophet Mohammad, in Ranchi, Friday

## Couple commits suicide over growing debt burden

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, June 10:** In a heart-wrenching incident, a couple reportedly committed suicide by hanging themselves at their house after being unable to repay the loans they had availed, reports said Friday. The deceased were identified as Bisikesan Sahu and his wife Mama Sahu of Kankadapal village under Sadar police limits of Dhenkanal district. The couple had been married for 15 years and is survived by a 14-year-old son.

The bodies of the couple were found in an abandoned room on the roof of their house. It is suspected that the couple took the extreme step due to financial issues after failing to repay the loans they had taken. Moneylenders had been reportedly harassing them for repayment. The couple was under severe mental stress over this. Unable to cope with the stress anymore and with no other way to repay the loans, the couple took the extreme step, neighbours said.

# Monsoon session from July 2

BUDGET FOR FY 22-23 TO BE PRESENTED IN THE HOUSE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The monsoon session of the state Assembly will begin from July 2 and continue till August 4. Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari will present the full-fledged Budget for the financial year 2022-23 before the House on the first day of the session. As per a notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat Friday the monsoon session will have 24 business days. While the Budget will be presented July 2, the Appropriation Bill will be tabled July 29. Official business will be taken up for discussion July 4. There will be general discussion on the annual Budget July 5 & 6. The House will remain closed from July 7 to 12. Reports of the Departmentally



## ARUKHA FILES PAPERS FOR SPEAKER'S POST

**Bhubaneswar:** Senior BJP legislator Bikram Keshari Arukha Friday filed his nomination papers for the post of Assembly Speaker. Arukha, a six-time MLA, submitted the nomination papers to Assembly Secretary Dasharathi Satapathy. The election to the post of Speaker will be held June 13. The Speaker post is vacant after SN Patro resigned on health grounds. "I would like to thank CM Naveen Patnaik for recommending my name for the coveted post of Speaker of Assembly. I would give my best to upkeep the dignity of the House," he told reporters.

Related Standing Committee will be presented before the House July 13. As per the schedule, discussion on demands for grants will be held between July 14 and July 20 (excluding Sundays). In August, there will be two official business days (August 1 & 3) and two Private Members' Bill days (August 2 & 4).

## Won't hesitate to start war over Taiwan, China tells US

AGENCIES

**Beijing, June 10:** Beijing will "not hesitate to start a war" if Taiwan declares independence, China's defence minister warned his US counterpart Friday in the pair's first face-to-face talks, officials said. "If anyone dares to split Taiwan from China, the Chinese army will definitely not hesitate to start a war no matter the cost," Wu Qian quoted defence minister Wei Fenghe as saying during a meeting with Lloyd Austin. The Chinese minister also vowed that Beijing would "smash to smithereens any 'Taiwan independence' plot and resolutely uphold the unification of the motherland," according to the Chinese

defence ministry. He "stressed that Taiwan is China's Taiwan... Using Taiwan to contain China will never prevail," the ministry said. Austin told his Chinese counterpart during the talks in Singapore that Beijing must "refrain from further destabilising actions toward Taiwan," the US Department of Defense said. Taiwan, a self-ruled, democratic island, lives under the constant threat of invasion by China. Beijing views the island as its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary. In the latest arms package, the US announced Wednesday the sale of parts for Taiwanese naval ships at an estimated cost of \$120 million.

# Sitharaman, Surjewala, Ramesh enter RS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 10:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala and senior leader Jairam Ramesh were among the eight candidates elected to the Rajya Sabha Friday from Karnataka and Rajasthan, while counting got delayed in Maharashtra and Haryana amid wrangling by rival parties over alleged breach of voting rules. In an emphatic endorsement for the BJP in Karnataka, the ruling party had the last laugh as it won all the three Rajya Sabha seats it contested out of the four that went to polls. The main opposition Congress managed to win only one of the two seats for which its nominees were in the fray, while the JD(S) drew a blank.



Nirmala Sitharaman, Randeep Surjewala, Jairam Ramesh

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, actor-politician Jaggesh, and MLC Lehar Singh Siroya of the BJP, and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh of the Congress were declared victorious. Sitharaman and Ramesh have been re-elected to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka.

In Rajasthan, the ruling Congress won three of the four seats and BJP one. BJP-backed Independent nominee and media baron Subhash Chandra, whose entry into the fray had added spice to the electoral tussle, fell by the wayside. Chandra, who had won the last RS election as an Independent from Haryana, tried his

## RAJYA SABHA Current Strength (Majority 123)

NDA	106
UPA	55
Others	63
Vacant/Nominated	13

luck from Rajasthan. Congress candidates Randeep Surjewala, Mukul Wasnik and Pramod Tiwari were declared elected, and so was BJP's Ghanshyam Tiwari. In an interesting development, BJP MLA Shobharani Kushwah cross-voted in favour of Congress candidate Pramod Tiwari. The BJP promptly suspended her from the party's primary membership.

# leisure



## BRITNEY'S EX-HUBBY CRASHES HER WEDDING

Britney Spears' wedding to fiancé Sam Asghari was interrupted by the pop star's ex-husband, Jason Alexander. He was placed under arrest for that offense. Deputies are still on scene investigating what occurred, and then will determine if additional charges will be placed on Alexander.

## ANGELINA JOLIE TO DIRECT, PRODUCE WITHOUT BLOOD

Angelina Jolie is set to wear multiple hats for her upcoming film *Without Blood* as she will write, direct and produce the feature which stars Salma Hayek Pinault and Demian Bichir. The film, Angelina's fifth directorial, is based on the international-best-selling novel of the same name by Italian writer Alessandro Baricco.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Just grab any chance you get to demonstrate your expressive abilities, as it will fetch widespread appreciation. Something about your children may make you proud. However, Ganesh says, don't neglect the aged members of your family.

**TAURUS**  
It is highly unlikely that you will be emotional and sentimental today, predicts Ganesh. Adopt a laid-back attitude towards life to feel at ease. Public servants will have encouraging and affirmative results in their efforts. Your competency will be put to test at the work place.

**GEMINI**  
You will be in the mood to pursue your heart's many desires today. You will want to spend more time with your family and your children. You need to translate desires into action by better balancing your schedule, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will have enthusiasm for swift action. Variety adds spice to life. So you may change job or trade. Ties with superiors will be good. Ganesh says this is the time for challenges.

**LEO**  
It is a good day to renew old acquaintances and make new relationships. Your friends and relatives will probably visit you today. A jovial feeling will pervade your home. You may throw a grand party for your guests, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesh says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesh advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that today will be a day where you will want to look good and feel good too. You will be able to attract people with your speech and your impressive personality today at social gatherings. Your social stature will also rise today. Romantic liaisons may take a serious turn today. Ganesh's blessings are forever with you.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, you must spend most of the time in meditation and introspection. If you do not meditate, you will be surrounded by negative thoughts and bitterness for others. According to Ganesh, this may hinder your progress and growth in career. Simple living and high thinking may make things easier for you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your stars are mighty today and plan a pleasant day for you, says Ganesh. You are a thorough professional and garner compliments for this attitude. You also have a knack to sail through all the troubles at work. This approach of yours is sure to win hearts of people and add some names in your friends' list

**CAPRICORN**  
You love the people around you unconditionally and such emotions will be more visible now than ever. Today, you will want to keep yourself surrounded with your loved ones, make them happy and have a good time, says Ganesh. Your honesty and sincerity will give depth to your existing relationships.

**AQUARIUS**  
God helps those who help themselves. You have experienced this plenty of times as your efforts have been paid off. While your colleagues at work may pass negative comments at your work, your boss will not have any complaints with you.

**PISCES**  
You will be able to come up trumps against the competition today. You should be wary of hidden enemies, for they might be involved in slandering you. It is best to reach out to others and make friends before they take it upon themselves to hinder your progress.

## Content reigns supreme: Mrunal

Mumbai: Mrunal Thakur, who is gearing up for her Telugu debut opposite south star Dulquer Salmaan in *Sita Ramam*, feels that south Indian cinema has emerged as a game-changer in the last few years with the pandemic further propelling the audience's interest in exploring new content. She also opines that content is the first priority for the audience today with the language of it not making much of a difference. Commenting on the same, the actress said, "When someone talks about Indian films, one is likely to think first about Bollywood and Hindi music. However, in the past few years and amidst the COVID-19 pandemic,

that has changed somewhat as regional cinema steps in a bigger way, courtesy OTT platforms." "South cinema, especially, has been the game-changer in the last couple of years and has catered phenomenal content that one can't stop talking about. Movies like *Baahubali*, *KGF: Chapter 2* are surely the game changers of south Indian cinema but the content, entirely, is getting wider reach globally now," she added.



## Theatre fest in City from Jun 13

Bhubaneswar: Lavanya Natya Mahotsav, a two-day theatre festival organised by City-based theatre troupe Lavanya Theatre, will be held here at Bhanja Kalamandap from June 13. Kalakar Ekata Manch of Rourkela will present *Pabitra Papa*, an Odia play written by Ajay Mohapatra and directed by Prasanta Mohapatra, on the first day of the event while the host organisation will perform another Odia play *Bhinna Eka Rajaputra*. It is written by Narayan Sahu and directed by Satya Jena. Top theatre personalities like eminent actors Ashrumochan Mohanty and Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Odisha Natya Sangh president Haren Sahoo and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi secretary Prabodh Rath will grace the event as guests. Five young drama directors - Jagdish Moharana, Sanjaya Saha, Prafulla Sethi, Sourav Gupta and Ram Krushna Mohapatra will be felicitated on the first day of the event, informed the organisers.

## WORLD TV PREMIERE OF MO PANATA KANI RE TU

Bhubaneswar: Upcoming Odia movie *Mo Panata Kani Re Tu* will have its World TV premiere on Zee Sarthak channel June 12 at 5:30 pm. Film's director Pinu Nayak, talking to Orissa POST, said, the story revolves around a 40-year-old man who behaves like a kid as his brain hasn't developed yet. Apart from penning the story, comedian Harihara Mohapatra aka Hari plays the challenging role while veteran actress Mahasweta essays the role of his mother. We have attempted to showcase the challenges parents face while grooming such kids." Actor Jyoti Ranjan and Shraddha also play key roles in the movie which is being made under the



banner of Zee Sarthak Films. Baidyanath Das has scored the music while the film's lyrics have been written by Arun Mantri, Shubha Das, Surya Mohapatra and Nihar Priyashish. A few top singers - Humane Sagar, Kuldeep Patnaik, Subashish Sahoo, Asima Panda, Sanju and Arpita Choudhury - have lent their voice to the songs.

## What Rashmika doesn't like about Ranbir Kapoor

Mumbai: Rashmika Mandanna, who is currently riding high on the success of *Pushpa: The Rise*, has started shooting for Arjun Reddy fame Sandeep Reddy Vanga's upcoming biggie *Animal* opposite Ranbir Kapoor. While Rashmika finds Ranbir extremely loving, she hates it when the actor calls her ma'am on the sets. "He is extremely loving. I was, of course, nervous when I met him first, but I think he's so easygoing that five minutes into the look test, we were already very comfortable with each other. And he's the only one in the whole industry who calls me 'ma'am' and I do not like it. I will get him for this one," Rashmika said. After Kabir Singh, Sandeep Reddy Vanga will be presenting Ranbir Kapoor in an entirely new role. *Animal* is a pan-India project that will be released in all southern languages as well as Hindi.



## Palak joins cast of Salman starrer

Mumbai: Salman Khan's upcoming film *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali* has been making the headline almost every other day. While it has been reported that the film has now been titled *Bhaijaan* the film keeps making the news with regards to who is on board or leaving the film. Well, now there's a new update. As per reports, the movie has one more exciting member who will make her B-Town debut with the same film, and she is none other than Shweta Tiwari's daughter Palak Tiwari. Yes! After Shehnaaz Gill, now Palak has reportedly joined the film and she has even begun the shooting of the film. A close source reveals Palak has been handpicked by Salman himself. *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali* is one of the most awaited films of Salman. Earlier, Aayush Sharma left the film due to his creative differences with the film director Farhad Samji. So far Shehnaaz Gill and Pooja Hegde are officially confirmed to be a part of *Kabhi Eid Kabhi Diwali*.



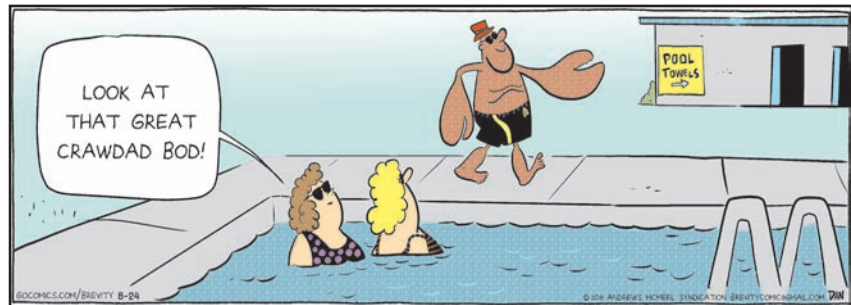
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10		
11		12			
13	14		15	16	17
		18			
19		20		21	22
23			24		
25				26	

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**Across**

1	Gad about	21	Off-limits	6	Synthetic fibre
4	Holmes partner	23	Autocratic	7	Crow
8	Argentine dance	24	Movable castles	10	Eye part
9	Force back	25	Attempt	14	Heather and bracken and moss places
11	Earthy colour	26	Terminates	16	Result
12	Hone			17	Pasta type
13	Table linen			18	Sky-blue
15	Deodorant type (4-2)			19	Scimitar
19	"That's ___" (4,3)			20	Purchaser
				22	Foundation

**Down**

1 Parachute part  
2 Tennis unit  
3 Hangs back  
5 Main artery

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

5				9		4		
		9		6	4			5
			8			6		
	6		7		2			
7				8		1	3	4
				9				
		1				2	9	
				5				3
								7

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	G	A	D	S	F
L	I	N	E	A	N
S	R	P	N	A	A
S	C	A	M	A	C
F	L	A	N	E	C
P	A	L	M	S	R
P	A	L	M	S	R
N	A	X	L	L	R
S	E	A	S	H	E
O	S	B	I	N	T
S	I	P	H	E	R
S	P	I	N	E	R

SUDOKU

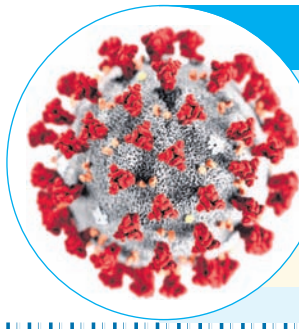
5	9	8	1	7	4	6	2	3
3	4	1	6	2	8	5	7	9
7	2	6	5	9	3	4	8	1
1	8	2	9	4	5	3	6	7
6	5	4	7	3	1	2	9	8
9	7	3	2	8	6	1	5	4
2	1	9	4	5	7	8	3	6
4	3	7	8	6	2	9	1	5
8	6	5	3	1	9	7	4	2

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**CULTURAL FEST**

Artistes perform Odissi at the 30th annual festival of Nrutyayan at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	53,93,59,661	51,20,66,850	63,28,657
India	4,32,05,106	4,26,44,092	5,24,747
Odisha	12,88,596	12,79,292	9,126

# Suspended Vig inspector dismissed from service

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal Friday dismissed Vigilance inspector Manasi Jena, who was under suspension on corruption charges, from service with immediate effect.

The DGP did so by exercising his power under Section 311(2) (b) of Constitution that enables the appointing authority to dismiss a public servant without holding departmental enquiry.

While working as the Vigilance inspector of Sambalpur division, Jena was caught accepting Rs 10 lakh as bribe from a senior government official through a middleman May 13. Jena reportedly sought the money from the official to close a petition against him.

Subsequently, the vigilance cell registered a case (5/22) in this regard and arrested Jena and Mukesh Sahoo of Bargarh, who worked as

## Graft cuffs on Bolagarh cop

**Khurda:** Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Bolagarh police here on charges of accepting Rs 6,000 as bribe for diluting a case. "Bhagwan Swain, an ASI at Bolagarh police station in Khurda, has been taken into custody while receiving Rs 6,000 from Sukanti Patnaik, the mother of an accused in a case," said a Vigilance official, adding that a case (14/22) has been registered in this regard. Swain had demanded the bribe from Sukanti in order to dilute a case against her son Chandan, who has been booked by the Bolagarh police. Based on Sukanti's complaint, Vigilance officials laid a trap and arrested Swain red-handed on the police station premises Friday.

# Man held for killing wife, injuring daughter in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The Commissionerate police Friday arrested a 45-year-old man who had stabbed his wife to death and grievously injured his six-year-old daughter by slitting her throat following a family dispute at Ghatikia here during the wee hours of Thursday.

Accused Sanjit Das was caught by the cops from near a school in the locality, sources said. Das was produced in a local court and later sent to judicial custody, police said.

According to police, Sanjit had married Saraswati Das of the same locality few years back. Saraswati used to work as a nurse in a nearby hospital while Sanjit, a lazy bum, is addicted to drugs.

The accused, who did not earn anything, often got engaged in quarrel with Saraswati over financial issues. Saraswati had given birth to

## Corruption charges



FILE PHOTO OF MANASI JENA

a conduit to receive the money from the government official. "She (Jena) was expected to display impeccable integrity and highest ethical standards. Such serious and gross misconduct and indulgence in such criminal activity on her part and that too against a senior public functionary, not only shows her brazen and imperious behaviour but also her complete disregard to the very ethos of vigilance organisation which is meant to fight corruption," said DGP Bansal in his order.

Bansal also stated that such immoral behavior by Jena is bound to have a demoralising effect on other officers/staff of the organisation and it would 'lower the image of the vigilance department'. He also said that on normal circumstances departmental proceedings initiated against cops found engaged in any unlawful activity before announcing departmental punishment.

DGP Bansal, in his order, said it would not be possible to hold an impartial and fair departmental probe as Jena despite under suspension could have enough clout to intimidate the witnesses and tamper with the evidences. She could also prolong the regular departmental proceedings and also

Vigilance inspector Manasi Jena was caught accepting Rs 10 lakh as bribe from a senior government official through a middleman May 13. Jena reportedly sought the money from the official to close a petition against him

Subsequently, the vigilance cell registered a case (5/22) in this regard and arrested Jena and Mukesh Sahoo of Bargarh, who worked as a conduit to receive the money from the government official

The DGP stated that such immoral behavior by Jena is bound to have a demoralising effect on other officers/staff of the organisation and it would 'lower the image of the vigilance department'

influence the testimony of the public functionary using her clout.

"Therefore, after carefully analysing the facts and circumstances of the case and after due application of mind, I conclude that Inspector Manasi Jena deserves to be dismissed by exercising power vested under Article 311(2) (b) of the Constitution in the appointing authority as it is not reasonably practicable to hold a departmental enquiry against Jena," the order reads.

"In consonance with the zero tolerance policy of the state government towards corruption, @DGOdisha has dismissed Manasi Jena, Inspector of Police, @OdishaVigilance, from service under Article 311(2)(b) of Indian Constitution following her arrest in a corruption case," tweeted Odisha Police.

## PREP FOR FESTIVAL



Artisans stitching a traditional canopy for the upcoming Snana Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri, Friday

# CB told to intensify highway patrolling

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The state government has asked the Crime Branch (CB) to intensify highway patrolling, an official said Friday.

Commerce and Transport department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi has recently written to the CB additional director general (ADG) in this regard, added the official.

According to Sethi, it is the duty of the highway patrol teams to oversee and enforce traffic safety compliance on highways. However,



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

the monthly performance report highlights a lacklustre performance by the patrol teams.

In March 2022, 866 cases of traffic rule violations have been detected by the 36 patrol teams. While

20 teams have not detected even a single case of road rule violation in the month, six have detected single digit cases during the entire month. This indicates the poor performance of the teams, said Sethi, quoting the monthly report.

"There are five stretches in the state identified as vulnerable. A lot of traffic rule violations must be occurring there. However, it indicates that the highway patrol teams are not functioning properly," Sethi said.

The performance of highway patrol teams was discussed in the

review meeting on road safety held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra April 20, 2022. The meeting decided that the DG of Police will take steps to enhance the performance of highway patrol teams.

The CB data indicates that road fatalities increased by 3.3 per cent during 2021 as compared to 2020 on five vulnerable stretches in the state in spite of rollout of highway patrol, he said, asking the ADG to take steps for intensifying enforcement activities through the highway patrol teams.

# LKM Centre & Library opened

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the LKM Centre and Library at 16 Satyanagar here, Friday.

Set up by LK Mahapatra Memorial Trust in memory of eminent anthropologist Prof. LK Mahapatra at his residence, LKM Centre and Library has books, research papers and notes of Mahapatra. The library also has classics of anthropology and social sciences from the 1950s, many of which are rare. It has a good collection of writings on tribal studies, development anthropology and Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia, it was learnt.

The library has been supplemented with books on social sciences particularly development economics from Bakul Library, an initiative of Bakul Foundation, set up by the noted anthropologist's son Sujit Mahapatra on the same premises.



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and other dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony in Bhubaneswar, Friday

The two libraries will complement each other as the LKM Centre is a research and reference library in the social sciences whereas the Bakul Library is a public library with books of general interest for children and adults, it was learnt.

On the occasion, Pradhan paid tributes to the vision and pioneering research done by Mahapatra during his stint at Utkal University 40 years ago that has been adopted in the new National

Education Policy. The Union Minister also highlighted Mahapatra's pioneering research on Southeast Asia which the Centre has decided to focus upon.

Pradhan, an alumnus of Utkal University, expressed his confidence that LKM Centre and Library will carry on the legacy of Mahapatra. He said the centre will be connected with other research institutions like the Indian Council for Social Science Research.

# Spl Mo Bus service for T20 match at Barabati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** Cricket buffs, there is a piece of good news for you. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) will provide special shuttle service between the Capital City and Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, which will host the India-South Africa T20I match Sunday.

According to CRUT, special buses will ply on two routes—Master Canteen to Barabati Stadium via Rasulgarh and Baramunda bus stand to Barabati Stadium via Patia—June 11 12noon onwards.

Similarly, the buses will leave Barabati Stadium for Master Canteen and Baramunda bus stand 11.30pm onwards.

The service will be exclusively for the match day and commuters have to pay Rs 40 as one way fare.

Mo Bus services for four additional routes primarily serving



Cuttack has commenced from June 8 and the response has been very positive so far, said CRUT General Manager Dipti Mahapatra.

As cricket enthusiasts from various places will be travelling to Cuttack through Bhubaneswar for the T20I match that will be held at Barabati Stadium from 7pm to 11pm June 12, passengers can utilise the Mo Bus special shuttle service for the purpose, added Mahapatra.

## NEWS SNIPPETS

### NCC will be introduced in 30 Adarsha Vidyalayas



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

**Bhubaneswar:** The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department has informed that the National Cadet Corps (NCC) system will be introduced in 30 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAVs) of the state. In the first phase, one Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya in each district will be selected for introduction of NCC, sources said. The NCC is the Indian military cadet corps with its head quarters at New Delhi. It is open to school and college students on voluntary basis. The NCC is a voluntary organisation which recruits cadets from high schools, colleges and universities from across the country. Apart from military training, the cadets learn several other valuable things like selflessness, honesty, discipline, hard work and ways to build confidence and gain leadership qualities.

### City police records 46 kidnap cases in May

**Bhubaneswar:** The twin city Commissionerate Police registered 46 cases of kidnapping in May this year, said a senior official Friday, quoting the recently released monthly data on kidnapping and missing cases. At nine, Khandagiri police saw registration of the highest kidnappings followed by Nayapalli and Mancheswar police with five and four abductions respectively. Badagada, Bharatpur and Saheed Nagar police registered three cases each last month, said the official. On the other hand, the twin city police managed to rescue 11 victims out of the total 46 cases, added the official. The kidnapping and man missing cell functioning at the deputy commissioner of police (DCP) office here managed to rescue 444 minors, solving 432 cases during the last 12 months.



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## State, C-DAC pact to implement OeHMIS

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The state government Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to provide software and associated services required for implementing Odisha e-Hospital Management Information System (OeHMIS) in four hospitals as a pilot project.

These hospitals include SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack; Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar; Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC), Cuttack; and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Pediatrics (SVPPGIP), Cuttack.

The MoU was signed by state Health Services Director Bijay Kumar Mohapatra and Rajiv Yadav of C-DAC in the presence of Raj Kumar Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary of Health & Family Welfare department. Upon successful execution, the customised OeHMIS will be replicated in health facilities across the state covering 31 district headquarter hospitals, 11 maternity and child health centers and 106 urban primary health centers.

The government signed a 5-year service agreement with C-DAC for the completion of remaining implementation activities at the four hospitals, replication of the OeHMIS across the state step-by-step according to DHS Odisha's strategy and continuation of the associated services for five years.

## Protests in many states over Prophet remarks

Continued from P1

Hundreds of protesters blocked roads in different parts of Howrah district in West Bengal. Some agitators clashed with personnel at Dhulagarh, Panchla and Uluberia when they tried to lift the blockade on National Highway-6.

Police had to baton charge to disperse the crowd at Dhulagarh and Panchla, where the demonstrators pelted stones in retaliation, causing damage to nearby cars, police said.

In Gujarat, protests were held in some areas of Ahmedabad and Vadodara. Shops and markets in Muslim-dominated Dariyapur and Karanj areas in Ahmedabad remained shut while in Dariyapur, several men and teenagers gathered on a main road with placards proclaiming love for the Prophet and demanding the arrest of Sharma.

Members of the Muslim community staged protests in several cities of Maharashtra though no untoward incident was reported from anywhere.

Meanwhile, a complaint was filed at a court in Muzaffarpur in Bihar against Sharma, Jindal and religious leader Swami Yati Narsinghanand by a social activist.

The BJP last Sunday suspended Sharma and Jindal after their derogatory comments on the Prophet stoked a furore including in the Arab world.

## BOOST TO STATE JUDICIARY



Justice Subhasis Talapatra (M) and Justice Sanjay Kumar Mishra (R) were sworn in as Judges of Orissa High Court by Chief justice S Muralidhar (L) at the Court's conference hall in Cuttack, Friday. OP PHOTO

## CUO conducts master trainers' training programme in CBPR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** The three-day long residential master trainers' training programme in community based participatory research (CBPR) organised by the Central University of Odisha (CUO) at Koraput concluded Thursday.

The training programme, sponsored by the University Grants Commission (UGC), was conducted under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (2.0) of Ministry of Education. The valedictory ceremony was organised at CUO's Sunabeda campus, where all the thirty two participants successfully completed their training course. The master trainers who participated in the programme were drawn from the states like Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha in the eastern region of the country.

Speaking at the concluding session, CUO VC (in-charge) SK Palita congratulated all the participants and as well as the UGC subject experts and resource persons for successful organisation of the training programme.

## HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

# 2nd phase ends with 416 more schools

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday dedicated 416 more high schools, transformed with modern facilities under the 5T initiative of the state government, in five districts to the people.

Naveen dedicated 150 transformed high schools in Jajpur, 100 in Bolangir, 95 in Koraput, 31 in Gajapati and 40 in Sambalpur on virtual mode on the concluding day of the second phase of the ambitious initiative.

The CM had earlier dedicated 532, 531, 492, 490 and 445 transformed schools June 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 respectively, it was learnt.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen said, "Each child is unique and holds great potential. Children dream for a better future and doing something big in life. The school transformation programme has added wings to their dreams and brought new opportunities for them."



If the dreams of children come true, the goal to build a new Odisha will be fulfilled and the foundation of a new Odisha will be laid, said the CM. He further said that the new look of schools has filled the hearts of children with joy and excitement. This has created new hopes and aspirations among the students.

According to the CM, transformation of school is a classic

example of the 5T initiative of the Odisha government. He elaborated how the five Ts (technology, teamwork, time, transparency and transformation) have brought positive changes in the school education sphere.

The CM thanked the school management committees, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), members of alumni associations and teachers for sup-

The CM dedicates 150 transformed high schools in Jajpur, 100 in Bolangir, 95 in Koraput, 31 in Gajapati and 40 in Sambalpur on virtual mode

Under the High School Transformation programme, altogether 1,070 high schools have been transformed in the first phase and 2,907 schools have been redeveloped in the second phase

porting the programme.

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Ministers—Tukuni Sahu and Rohit Pujari, MLAs—Amar Prasad Sartpathy and Raghu Ram Padal, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and other senior officers from various departments attended the concluding function.

## State registers 20 fresh Covid cases, TPR at 0.19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, June 10:** Odisha recorded 20 fresh coronavirus cases Friday, 11 less than the previous day, with the tally rising to 12,88,596, the state Health department said in a bulletin.

The death toll remained at 9,126 as no new fatality due to the infection was reported in the last 24 hours, it said. Fifty-three other coronavirus patients have died due to comorbidities so far.

Odisha currently has 136 active cases, and 11 more people have recuperated from the disease

during the period, taking the state's total number of recoveries to 12,79,281, the Health bulletin said.

The coastal state's daily test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.19 per cent as the new infections were detected from 10,400 sample tests, it added.

## Extra shows at Planetarium for Raja

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Pathani Samanta Planetarium here will have extra shows for space and science enthusiasts on the occasion of Raja festival. Planetarium Director Sanjulata Behera said the planetarium will screen shows from 11:30 am at every half an hour from June 11 to 16 except Monday. The shows will be available in Hindi and Odia and one show will be in English at 4pm.

# 'Draft E-Waste Management Rules have left us in the lurch'

S tating that the proposed Draft E-Waste Management Rules of 2022 totally disregards the role and responsibilities of dismantlers or Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs), the Indian Federation of Reverse Logistics (IFRL) has demanded the government to recognise their position in the Extended Producer Responsibility value chain and not rid them of their livelihoods.

Considering the hazardous materials, and other things such as plastic and other metals, are the end product of e-waste recycling chain and while applying the concept of circular economy - in simple terms, the output/waste at the end of the product cycle feeds back into the same chain or becomes raw material for some other product - the E-Waste Management Rules of 2016 had defined the roles of and responsibilities of the entire value chain.

Since the E-Waste Management Rules 2016 were applicable, more than 75 PROs and over 400 dismantlers started shops across



India. These acted as a valuable bridge between the producer and the recycler by providing the necessary logistics of bringing together product wise e-waste with quality sourcing and better collection mechanism across the country. "Prior to these rules, the rate of recycling was less than 1 per cent, which is now 4-5 per cent with absolute growth approximately 15X over these years," the federation pointed out.

The newly formed federation comprises companies active in the reverse logistics domain that seek to develop a green supply chain across the country to facilitate collection and channelisation of e-waste and contribute towards creating a circular economy.

The E-Waste Management Rules 2022 were floated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) May 19.

"The 'Extended Producer Responsibility' (EPR) has been defined in the Draft E-Waste Management Rules 2022 for meeting recycling targets only through registered recyclers. But there is a need for sustaining the integrated reverse value chain comprising consumers, PROs, collection centres, dismantlers to support the producers, importers, brand owners and recyclers with quality sourcing and better collection mechanism across

the country only then there can be better recyclability," Vijai Singhal, an office bearer of the Federation listed the long list of works/jobs that the PROs carry out.

Pointed out Nisha Banth, spokesperson of the Federation, "It clashes with the monopoly laws and also with the right to lawfully earn a living. The draft rules have left us in lurch."

"The PROs can continue acting as catalysts in the E-Waste value chain and help make the developed collection mechanism far more robust and integrated reverse value chain, besides sup-

porting the SPCBs & CPCB in E-waste data inventorisation, capacity building exercises aimed at promoting collections from residential colonies, dealers, retailers, bulk consumers, households, office clusters, and the informal sector," said Banth.

Pankaj Nijhawan, another office-bearer, pointed out how it was an NGT decision regarding the e-waste mismanagement at Moradabad (in Uttar Pradesh) that had prompted the 2016 Rule. He asked, "With the PROs missing in the value chain, do we want more Moradabads?"

**The PROs can continue acting as catalysts in the E-Waste value chain and help make the developed collection mechanism far more robust and integrated reverse value chain, besides supporting the SPCBs & CPCB in E-waste data inventorisation, capacity building exercises aimed at promoting collections from residential colonies, dealers, retailers, bulk consumers, households, office clusters, and the informal sector**

NISHA BANTH | SPOKESPERSON, INDIAN FEDERATION OF REVERSE LOGISTICS

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SHORT TAKES

Girl charred while cooking

Parjang: A girl was Friday charred to death while cooking at her house at Bam village under Parjang police limits in Dhenkanal. The deceased has been identified as Diptirekha Mohanta. Sources said Diptirekha was cooking food for her family when her dress caught fire from the hearth. She sustained more than 80 per cent burns. Her family members rushed to her rescue and admitted her to Kamakhyanagar hospital where she succumbed to the burn injuries.

3 nabbed for drug peddling

Dhenkanal: Town police Friday seized 16.70 gram brown sugar and arrested three peddlers from Rameswarpur in this town. The accused were identified as Rahul Kumar Rout of Baji Chowk, Ganesh Nath of Ragadi Sahi and Soumyaranjan Das of Motanga area. Police also seized ₹40,000 in cash, a car, five cell phones, a gold chain, a gold ring and a gold bracelet from the accused trio. The seized contraband is valued at ₹1.70 lakh. Police registered a case and started an investigation.

Four wildlife poachers held

Baripada: Acting on a tip-off, forest officials conducted a raid and arrested four wildlife criminals from Similpal Sanctuary late Thursday night. The criminals have been arrested from Kendumundi Range in Similpal Wildlife Sanctuary. The Forest officials also seized around 12 kg deer meat, three guns and one motorcycle from their possession. The smugglers have been identified as Basudev Nayak, Sudarshan Nayak, Chakradhar Gagarai and Kereshe Singh Khuntia of Ramadhi, Pahadpur and Burudhi village under Karanjia block. During night patrolling, the officials came to know about the whereabouts of the wildlife poachers. They surrounded them from all corners and made the arrest. A case has been registered and the four have been forwarded to court, said the Forest department sources.

Biofloc fish farming big draw for women



Bissamcuttack, June 10: Biofloc fish farming which has set trends in the pisciculture industry is gaining traction among the women fish farmers under this block in Rayagada district, a report said. The system requires a large water tank instead of a pond where fish can be grown with adequate oxygen supply through machines. The move is part of an initiative by the state government to provide livelihood opportunities

Baby elephant rescued from well

Phiringia, June 10: After a tiring two-hour operation, a 15-member team of the Forest department successfully rescued a jumbo calf that had fallen inside a well at Jiringipada village under Phiringia block in Kandhamal district late Thursday night. A few villagers first spotted the baby elephant in the well and immediately alerted the Forest department officials. On learning about the incident, a 15-member team reached the spot and launched a rescue operation that lasted for two hours. Villagers of Jiringipada suspect that the calf might be part of a herd that passed through the village in search of food Wednesday night.

Teacher certs vetting fails to gather steam

Chhatrapur, June 10: Although the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department has started the verification of certificates and documents of teachers in Ganjam since 2019, the process is yet to gather steam. Till date, the department has detected 99 fake teachers in the district who have grabbed the jobs by furnishing forged educational certificates. However, verification of scores of others is yet to be over. Earlier, despite repeated allegations about the fake teachers, some officials are doing precious little to carry forward the investigation. The S&ME department has insisted on hastening the verification of mark sheets, caste and migration certificates, and training documents of all the teachers. The department has been sending reminders to the district education officer, the district proj-

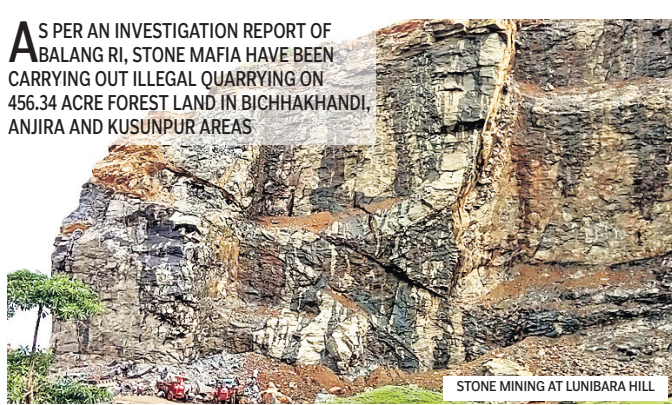
ect coordinator of the Samagra Sikhya Abhijan and block education officers. But the verification is yet to be completed. The department has again sent a reminder to the officials. The department has sought to know as to what action has been taken against the fake teachers. The district Collector has been intimated about the issue. The department had asked the district education officer (DEO) to sack the teachers or start departmental proceedings or file FIRs against the teachers if their documents are found to be fake. It was learnt that the officials have not sent reports about 85 teachers to the department. Seven teachers have been sacked while FIRs have been lodged against 19 teachers at different police stations. In some cases, a few teachers have got stay from courts on the verification of their documents.



A mobile van meant for creating awareness on prevention of child and adolescent labour was flagged off by a senior official of the district labour office in Keonjhar, Friday

Black stone mining rampant in Jajpur

Jajpur/Kabatabandha, June 10: The district administration has allegedly failed to contain plunder of minor minerals like black stone in Dharmasala block of Jajpur district, resulting in huge revenue loss to the state government. Reports said as many as 20 illegal stone quarries are still operational in different hills like Dankari, Kunubara, Kusunpur, Baghua, Rahadpur and Chargotha. As per an investigation report of Balang revenue inspector (RI), stone mafia have been carrying out illegal quarrying by occupying 456.34 acre forest land in Bichhakhandi, Anjira and Kusunpur areas. Such illegal activities have been going on since 2019. The then Dharmasala tehsildar Saroj Kumar Panda in his letter-989, March 28, 2019 and in another letter 461, February 7, 2019 to the Cuttack DFO had pointed out the ecological imbalance and rampant tree felling in these areas. However, due to political inter-



ference and pressure from black stone trader, the forest land had been leased out to the latter. Environment has degraded to a great extent and biodiversity is at stake due to rampant mining. Upset over this problem, people of Balarampur had moved the High Court, but it made difference to stone mafia. It was alleged that stone mining is still being carried out on plots like 1848; 1856; 1876; 1872; 1871 of forest land in Bichhakhandi area. Similarly, stone mining is going on at plot nos- 1729 and 1477 of forest land at Anjira. Stone mafia are also carrying out mining on plots - 1358; 1366; 1527 and 1556 of reserve forest land at Kusunpur. Besides, there are four such stone quarries at Rahadpur hill; one at Dankari hill; three on Lunibar hill; two on Baghua hill and three on Chargotha hill, local alleged. They alleged that though they had drawn the attention of the tehsildar, no action is being taken against the mafia. They said that tehsil officials are in cahoots with the stone mafia.

Baripada to have regional Chhau research centre

Baripada, June 10: A regional research centre for famous Chhau dance will be set up at Baripada. This was stated by Mayurbhanj Chhau Nritya Pratishthan. A delegation from the Centre along with a team of officials from the state will visit Baripada to take stock of the ground situation June 12. The officials will collect data about Chhau artistes and hold an interaction programme. It may be noted that a research centre particularly for Chhau dance practiced in Sadheikala and Purulia areas has been set up at Chandankiari in Jharkhand. However, Chhau artistes of Mayurbhanj have long been demanding establishment of a regional Chhau research centre at Baripada. Such development about a regional Chhau research centre has brought cheers among Chhau artistes as their long cherished dream is going to be realised soon.



Notably, there are 210 organisations and associations promoting Chhau dance in the district. Three months ago, additional chief secretary Madhusudan Padhi had visited Mayurbhanj. During his visit, Padhi reviewed the existing status of Chhau and held discussion with dance and instrumental artistes about their training.

5 critical after using anti-lice medicine

Aradi: Five members of a family in Dihasahi village under Aradi police limits in Bhadrak were taken critically ill after applying an anti-lice medicine on their heads. They were identified as Anima Mallick, Nirupama Mallick, Nerima Mallick, Lucky Mallick and Sushil Mallick. According to reports, the family had bought the anti-lice medicine from the market Thursday. A few minutes after applying it, the five felt dizzy and subsequently fainted. They were rushed to Aradi primary health centre but they were later shifted to Bhadrak district headquarters hospital. As the condition of Sushil, 4, turned critical, he was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack.

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PISCICULTURE IN TANKS

THE SYSTEM REQUIRES A LARGE WATER TANK INSTEAD OF A POND WHERE FISH CAN BE GROWN WITH ADEQUATE OXYGEN SUPPLY THROUGH MACHINES

THE MOVE WILL HELP THE WOMEN EARN AROUND ₹60,000 TO ₹1 LAKH THROUGH THIS METHOD OF FISH FARMING

gerlings have been released in each tank. While shrimp can be harvested in 90 days, the harvest of fish will take five to six months, an official of OLM said. The OLM officials have provided all the technical assistance and equipment to the farmers for the cultivation in the first year and are also looking after maintenance of the tanks. The women will independently undertake the farming from next year. The rest of the women will be involved in the fish farming in subsequent phases. Moreover, plans are afoot to train the women in shrimp farming with the new method in coming days, said Biswajit Swain, field officer of OLM.

EAST COAST RAILWAY File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/ E-Tender/32, Dt. 08.06.2022 Tender No. e-tender-CENT-KUR-81-2022, Date: 07.06.2022 Description: SUPPLY OF 50,000 CUM OF HARD STONE MACHINE CRUSHED BALLAST OF 50 MM SIZE AT RADHAKHISHOREPUR DEPOT & LOADING THE SAME INTO ANY TYPE OF RAILWAY WAGON FOR KHURDA ROAD DIVISION. Approx cost of the work: ₹64.43 lakhs, EMD: ₹4,73,200/-, Completion Period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) Months. Date & time of Tender Closing: 29.06.2022, 1500 hrs. No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-188/N/22-23) Khurda Road

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PURI IRRIGATION DIVISION, PURI E-mail ID: eepuri\_eicwr.od@nic.in & eepuriirrigation@yahoo.com "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. PID-01 OF 2022-23 No.A-318: Bid Identification No. PID-01 of 2022-23 to PID-46 OF 2022-23 1 Name of the Work :- River/Canal 2 Total No. of Package :- 46 Nos. 3 Tender Cost :- 8.45 Lakhs to 43.82 Lakhs 4 Bid Security Declaration :- As Annexed in DTCN 5 Class of Contractor :- 'D' to 'A' Class 6 Cost of Tender Paper :- Rs.4,000/- to Rs.6,000/- (Online payment mode) 7 Period of Completion :- Four Calendar Month & Six Calendar Months Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender for online bidding From To Last date and time of seeking tender clarification Date & Time of opening of Tender 1 2 3 4 5 6 Superintending Engineer, Puri Irrigation Division, Puri PID 01 of 2022-23 to PID 46 of 2022-23 From 13.06.2022 11.30 AM To 27.06.2022 5.30 PM 27.06.2022 upto 5.30 PM 28.06.2022 at 11.30 AM (In the office of the Superintending Engineer, Puri Irrigation Division, Puri) Further details conditions can be seen from the Govt. website http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in. OIPR-32011/11/0001/2223 Sd./-Superintending Engineer, Puri Irrigation Division, Puri

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EMPLOYMENT \*\*\*\*\* F. No. NICS/1031/2019/20-Trg INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 130 POSITIONS OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS UNDER NATIONAL CAREER SERVICE PROJECT OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT Directorate General of Employment has established "National Career Service Portal" as a modernized version of the National Employment Service, which shall act as a common, Centralized platform to provide a better range of services, including, Jobseeker/Employer registration, Vacancy Notification, Counsellor Services, Online/Offline Job Fairs, Online Employability Training, Bilingual Call Centre, rich career content with sectors and profiles and many more career related services etc. Under the National Career Service Project, applications are invited for 130 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS, on contractual basis, for deployment at Model Career Centres at various locations in the country. The YP will be under the overall supervision of Director NICS, Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour and Employment. The application, eligibility criteria/ conditions are available at www.ncs.gov.in. The interested candidates may apply over NCS portal at www.ncs.gov.in. The last date for the receipt of applications shall be 14 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. No Physical Applications will be entertained. To apply please visit the link given below. Link for apply online: https://www.ncs.gov.in/Pages/ViewJobDetails.aspx?A=w1BcJXzB%2BW4%3DU=&JSID=hHpJolp5Gj8%3D&RowId=hHpJolp5Gj8%3D&OJ= Link for More Details: https://labour.gov.in/circulars Deputy Director of Employment, National Institute for Career Service Directorate General of Employment Ministry of Labour and Employment davp 23188/12/0001/2223



Do not belong to the past dawns,  
but to the noons of future

SRI AUROBINDO



## Sector Swap

Public or private sector? Where is the grass greener? In these enlightened times, apparently on both sides. Sources have informed DKB that the Centre is actively considering hiring a private sector executive for the top post at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The post has been vacant since the retirement of Shashi Shanker in March last year. The government's search-cum-selection committee is reportedly planning to seek out private sector executives as well as eligible candidates from within the government. The view is that a private sector honcho is more likely to help revamp the company, increase its risk-taking capability and enhance efficiency. To sweeten the deal, the government is weighing options to offer a lucrative compensation too.

Meanwhile, several corporate houses in Tamil Nadu believe hiring ex-IAS officers makes a lot of business sense. An IAS officer does not lose relevance after superannuation but is often capable of donning a new avatar. Recently, two leading corporates of Chennai drafted two former IAS officers R Gopalan and MF Farooqui as chairpersons of their companies. Of course, both ex-babus have served on the boards of these companies for some time, but their elevation to the top slot has made a lot of people sit up and take notice.

Possibly, these babus who have long years of experience serving at the Centre and the state will bring a new perspective, especially on how to navigate the tricky corridors of bureaucracy. It is a win-win proposition for both ex-babus and their new corporate masters.

### Centre under pressure over Mizoram CS

The Centre often claims that it is very sensitive to the needs of the north-eastern states. Now it faces an issue in Mizoram that will test its claim.

For some time now, major civil society groups in the state have been campaigning with the Centre to replace the state's Chief Secretary Renu Sharma with an officer who can speak Mizo, the native tongue. The protesters say that while they have nothing personal against Sharma, her inability to communicate in Mizo is a problem and creates administrative hurdles. The protests have turned public only because the Centre has repeatedly ignored the demand of the Mizo public.

The controversy is not new. This column had earlier reported how Sharma, an AGMUT cadre officer of the 1988 batch, was appointed by the Centre to the post in October last year after the retirement of her predecessor Lalnunmawia Chuauango. Oddly, on the same day, Chief Minister Zoramthanga named additional chief secretary JC Ramthanga to the same post. The confusion ended when the Centre's nominee prevailed and Sharma took charge.

The opposition to Sharma, observers say, has the tacit support of the state government, which may explain why the issue has not died down. It may also be why the Centre is treading carefully on the issue, knowing that any wrong move can escalate the tense situation. The buzz is that the Home Ministry may decide to err on the side of caution and bury the issue quietly by acquiescing to the demand for Sharma's removal.

### IAS crunch continues as govt goes slow on intake

When the Centre promised "minimum government, maximum governance" it is pretty certain that it did not mean cutting down the number of IAS officers. Yet, that is what it has allowed to happen.

Despite suffering a crunch of IAS officers for more than a year now, the government has done little to improve the intake of officers in the service. The recent UPSC civil service exam results have shown that the intake of IAS officers is 180, the same as it was in 2014 when Modi became the Prime Minister. The total intake of officers in the civil service has gone down to 749 officers last year from 1,228 in 2013.

Earlier in March, a report of the parliamentary standing committee on personnel had recommended that the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) increase the intake of IAS officers, but the government has not moved on the issue. Why is it dragging its feet? Some observers feel that the answer depends on the cadre review. The government is still working on an acceptable formula and does not wish to increase the intake of officers suddenly, since it may be perceived as a knee-jerk reaction.

So the low intake is due to the government trying to restructure the system. Again, we don't know how long that exercise will continue.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian) on Twitter. Let's multiply the effect

### WISDOM CORNER

We must teach science in the mother tongue. Otherwise, science will become a highbrow activity. **CV RAMAN**

I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved. **BR AMBEDKAR**

Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends? **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Agnotology

Agnotology is the study of culturally induced ignorance. Historians of science have tended to focus on the processes by which scientific knowledge gets accepted. In recent decades, some scholars have come to see that processes that impede or prevent acceptance of scientific findings are also important. Such processes include the very human desire to ignore unpleasant facts, media neglect of topics, corporate or government secrecy, and misrepresentation for a commercial or political end. They often generate controversy, much of it ill-informed. Examples include the health implications of tobacco and of genetically modified plants, the safety of nuclear power, the environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and the existence or extent of man-made climate change. The word's earliest appearance seems to have been in a book of 1995, *The Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know and Don't Know About Cancer*. This was by Robert Proctor, a historian of science at Stanford University in California. He coined it from the classical Greek agnōsis, not knowing, plus the suffix -ology, a subject of study, from Greek logos, word or speech.

#### Qubit

This is a key concept in the very new field of quantum computing. The aim is to produce a device which is the quantum equivalent of the digital computer. The qubit (pronounced exactly the same as was the Old Testament measurement, the cubit) is a "quantum bit", the analogue at quantum dimensions of the ordinary computer's 1 or 0, on or off, heads or tails binary digit or bit. Unlike such digital representations, a qubit remains in an indeterminate state until it is observed, like a tossed coin that is still spinning. It was shown recently that in theory a quantum computer could solve certain mathematical problems, such as factoring large numbers, much faster than conventional ones, and so could be used, for example, in codebreaking. It might even be possible to employ the "action at a distance" properties of quantum mechanics to transport information instantaneously over great distances without loss. This may all sound like SF, but the first two-bit quantum logic gates were actually demonstrated at the end of 1995. If this field takes off, we shall probably see a whole series of new portmanteau words beginning in "qu". Anyone for "quanputer"?

### FOCUS ECONOMY

# TAMING INFLATION CURVE



Willem H Buiter and Anne C Sibert

**ALL THREE CENTRAL BANKS SHOULD BE ADOPTING A CONTRACTIONARY STANCE, SETTING POLICY RATES SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE THE 2.5% NEUTRAL RATE**

Major central banks have lost the plot when it comes to fulfilling their price-stability mandates. In April, 12-month US consumer price index (CPI) inflation was at 8.3%, down slightly from 8.5% in March, and the US Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, the core personal consumption expenditures price index (which excludes food and energy), was at 4.9%, down from 5.2% in March. But what the Fed should be doing is the opposite of what it actually is doing.

After increasing the target zone for the federal funds rate by 50 basis points to 0.75-1%, at its May meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee indicated that it will stick with 50-bps hikes at its June and July meetings. According to the May meeting minutes, all participants agreed that the US economy was very strong, the labor market was extremely tight, and inflation was well above target. Yet they decided that the FOMC "should expeditiously move the stance of monetary policy toward a neutral posture" (emphasis ours).

There are two problems with this. First, the Fed's monetary policy stance should be restrictive, not neutral. Instead, the FOMC merely noted "that a restrictive stance of policy may well become appropriate depending on the evolving economic outlook and the risks to the outlook." Second, there is nothing expeditious about two additional 50-bps increases. The policy rate's upper bound will still be only 2%, below the consensus estimate of a 2.5% neutral rate (the sum of a neutral real rate of 0.5% and the 2% inflation target).

The Fed's balance-sheet tightening is also minimal. Starting in June, its holdings will shrink by \$47.5 billion (\$30 billion in Treasuries and \$17.5 billion in agency debt and mortgage-backed securities) each month for three months, followed by an open-ended sequence of monthly \$35 billion reductions (\$60 billion in Treasuries and \$35 billion in agency debt and MBSs).

That sounds like a lot of unwinding. But it is worth remembering that the Fed's balance sheet had ballooned to nearly \$9 trillion by the end of March 2021. At the current pace of reduction, returning the balance sheet to where it was in early March 2020 (about \$4.2 trillion) will take more than four years. And it will take more than seven years to reach the level in early September 2008 (\$900 billion), before the Fed erected its Great Wall of Liquidity around financial markets.

The Fed is not the only major central bank remaining behind the curve. The Bank of England's policy rate is currently 1%. That is up from an all-time low of 0.1% in March 2020, but the BOE has limited its rate hikes to increments of 25 bps or less. At the May meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee, only three members (out of nine) voted for a 50-bps increase. In the MPC's May projections, the market-implied bank rate reaches about 2.5% by mid-2023, before falling back to 2% in 2025.

This policy-rate projection appears way too low. The United Kingdom's headline CPI inflation rose from 7% in March to 9% in April and is expected to peak at slightly over 10% later in 2022. The BOE projects that a significant slowdown in economic growth



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will bring inflation to its target in 2024; but while that outcome is certainly possible, we regard it as unlikely without significant additional monetary tightening. The policy approach is similarly inexplicable in the eurozone, where headline CPI inflation was 8.1% in May, up from 7.4% in April. Nonetheless, the European Central Bank's interest rate on its main refinancing operations remains zero, and its deposit rate is -0.5%. In an interview on May 25, ECB Chief Economist Philip R. Lane indicated that, following the end of net asset purchases in July, the MPC will set a benchmark pace with 25-bps hikes at the July and September meetings.

Meanwhile, the supposedly hawkish chief of Austria's central bank, Robert Holzmann, has called for a 50-bps rate hike at the July meeting. Yet even if the ECB increases rates by 50 bps in July and again in September, the deposit rate will reach only 0.5%. Never mind that inflation will still be materially above target, and that, with the harmonized eurozone unemployment rate at 6.8% in April – its lowest level since July 1990 – the real economy will be close to overheating. The ECB's dovishness exceeds even that of the

Fed and the BOE.

All three central banks should be adopting a contractionary stance, setting policy rates significantly above the 2.5% neutral rate. A useful benchmark for the appropriate policy rate is the Taylor Rule, the original version of which recommends a policy rate equal to the neutral rate (2.5%), plus half the percentage difference between actual and potential real (inflation-adjusted) GDP, plus 1.5 times the difference between the actual and target inflation rates.

Suppose we conservatively assume that the output gap is zero in all three monetary-policy areas. For the eurozone, even if the actual (underlying) inflation rate is the 3.8% core rate rather than the headline rate, the benchmark policy rate would be 5.2%. And because it is hard to come up with actual underlying US and UK inflation rates below 4%, the benchmark policy rate for both the Fed and the BOE would not be less than 5.5%. Far from being restrictive, the major central banks' current stance remains expansionary, with policy rates well below the neutral level (and deeply negative in real terms). All three are therefore continuing to feed inflation.

At current levels, inflation is a severe economic, social, and political problem – one that especially hurts the poor and the financially unsophisticated. The more that longer-term inflation expectations become unanchored, the higher the cost of disinflation will be in terms of lost output and employment.

The inevitable and necessary economic slowdown should be engineered earlier rather than later. At each of the next two Fed and BOE meetings, policy rates should be raised by at least 100 bps, and the ECB should plan for three rate hikes of 100 bps or more. The ECB has not raised its policy rate for almost 11 years. Let us hope that it remembers how.

Willem H Buiter is a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee while Anne C Sibert is a former member of the Central Bank of Iceland's Monetary Policy Committee.

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### SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Climate change worsens food insecurity

Food security has emerged a subject of much discussion due to an impending global crisis, more so due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Mention may be made of wheat shortage in different countries, including in India, which decided to stop restrictions on exports, except to its neighbours. There are reports that due to climate change and attendant vagaries such as global warming and increasing heat waves, cyclones and floods, food security is likely to be threatened.

Scientists warned that the world will run out of food in 27 years. This means we are heading towards a food crisis. Shortages of water, land and energy combined with the increased demand from population and economic growth will create a global food shortage around 2050. The lower output in India and some other countries, along with global supply crunch in the wake of the war in Ukraine are seen as the key drivers for international wheat prices, which have soared in recent weeks.

Delving into the problem of food insecurity, it may be said that such insecurity may be ranked into five phases. While phases 1

and 2 are classified as 'none/minimal' and 'stressed', respectively, the three highest levels of food insecurity are labeled 'crisis', 'emergency' and 'catastrophe'.

It is a well-known fact that two years of the COVID-19 pandemic had taken a considerable toll on global food systems – and the ability of the world to feed its 7.9 billion people. Ending hunger is the second of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals to achieve by 2030. In the 2021 report on State of Food Security & Nutrition in the World, between 720 million and 811 million people in the world faced hunger in 2020, around one in 10, according to UN estimates.

In India, the major problems that have been identified are: population growth and poverty with a significant section though above the BPL line, belonging to the economically weaker sections; climate change, specially heat waves, floods and cyclones affecting production and productivity specially in the current year, with similar changes also affecting livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture; inadequate storage facilities for grains, leading to lack of protection from humidity and pests

and concurrent wastage and loss for farmers; lack of education and training on new techniques, technologies and agricultural products and reliance on traditional farming methods that are slightly more time consuming and delay the production of food grains, etc. growth of biofuel growing food crops market, thereby reducing land used for growing food crops; and diverting the grains to open market to get better margin, selling poor quality grains at ration shops, the irregular opening of the shops adds to the issue of food insecurity.

There is need to diversify food systems, empower vulnerable and marginalised groups, and promote sustainability across all aspects of food supply chains, from production to consumption. It also means shaping food policies in ways that recognise inter-system linkages – ensuring, for example, that food systems, ecological systems, and economic systems create positive synergies rather than working at cross-purposes.

Thus transformation across food systems would help to alleviate many of the problems unleashed by the pandemic. Policies that pro-

mote diverse farming systems – such as agro-ecology are typically more ecologically sustainable than systems geared for specialized production and long-distance trade. More diverse production systems contribute to more nutritious diets by providing a wide variety of foods essential to good health.

More localised markets are also more empowering for vulnerable and marginalized groups because they create livelihood opportunities not only for local farmers, but also for local traders and processors. Grounded in communities and catering to their specific needs, these more localised market systems can respond to changing conditions more quickly and reduce the need for an excessive reliance on imports.

The threat to food security, is immense in most tropical countries, including India, with heat-waves causing loss to life and property as well as food production. Policies that support transformative initiatives and help to build more diverse food systems that can stand heat or flooding or even less dependent on water need to be evolved so as to achieve SDG2 in the coming years.

INFRA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

**Orissa POST**  
B-15, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate,  
Bhubaneswar-751010

### No place for complacency

Sir, Apropos, "India carefully monitors developments along its border areas" (Orissa POST, June 10). The brazenness with which China has been ramping up infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is not lost on anyone. India is well aware of this buildup, though it has been slow in matching the aggressive neighbour's moves. Echoing New Delhi's concerns, a top US General has termed the Chinese activity 'eye-opening' and 'alarming'. During his India visit, General Charles A Flynn, who heads the US Army's Pacific Command, also called out the Chinese Communist Party for its 'destabilising and corrosive' behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. His strong words come days before the second anniversary of the Galwan Valley clash, which has dominated the India-China discourse amid the prolonged Ladakh standoff. Indeed, America is missing no opportunity to throw its weight behind India, its key ally in the region. American support, however, gives India no reason to become complacent. With China busy constructing a second bridge around the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh to facilitate the movement of its troops, besides establishing roads and residential units in border areas, India needs to be more active and assertive along the LAC. Also, it is vital to ensure the success of the Centre's Vibrant Villages Programme, which envisages coverage of border villages having sparse population, limited connectivity and infrastructure. All-round development of these areas can spur the residents to help the troops and do their bit for border security.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

### Noise woes

Sir, Sound pollution is eating into the vitals of our society. Sound pollution is unwanted sound that disturbs our peace and tranquility. It is a menace for the society. It is a serious health hazard. Bursting of crackers in marriage processions on the road is adding woes to the worries of the common man. It is a flagrant display of wealth and superiority. Can't marriage be done without DJ music and bursting of crackers? Is it a royal procession or a march for a king to be enthroned? What is the necessity of causing trouble to children, senior citizens, animals and job aspirants preparing for various competitive examinations by the cacophony of DJ music? As conscientious citizens we should not harass our fellow citizens and flaunt the law by our act of misconduct and moral impropriety. We are duty bound to safeguard the interests of our fellow citizens. This is the demand of the day.

**Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR**

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भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India

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असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II - खण्ड 3 - उप-खण्ड (ii) PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, नवंबर 23, 2021 अग्रहायण 2, 1943 NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AGRAHAYANA 2, 1943

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 23rd November, 2021

S.O. 4830(E). - Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) and issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), vide S.O. No. 4240 dated 22nd November, 2019, the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four/six-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Newly Proposed Raipur Vishakhapatnam Economic Corridor on the stretch of land from Km. 123.210 to Km. 238.200 (O/o-Tahasildar, Nabarangpur, Dist-Nabarangpur) in the district of NABARANGPUR in the state of ODISHA;

And whereas, the substance of the said notification has been published in "Sambad" and "Samaja" Newspaper both dated 16th January, 2020 & "Orissa Post" and "Sambad" Newspaper both dated 29th September, 2021 under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas, objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the Newly Proposed Raipur Vishakhapatnam Economic Corridor in the stretch of land from Km. 123.210 to Km. 238.200 in the Newly Proposed (O/o-Tahasildar, Nabarangpur, Dist: Nabarangpur) in the district of NABARANGPUR in the state of ODISHA.

Main table with columns: Sr. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person Part Survey No. Includes village-wise listings like Taluk: Nabarangpur P.S., Village: Agnipur, etc.

Continuation of the main table with columns: Sr. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person Part Survey No. Includes village-wise listings like Village: Deula, Village: Pujariguda, etc.

[F. No. NHAI/11013/LA/PIU-SBP, Odisha/Raipur-Vizag/Notif.(3a)/3D/1] RAJESH GUPTA, Director

# Vacation season behind Cov spike in Delhi: Experts

India registered its highest daily spike in nearly three months with 7,584 new Covid cases as the country witnesses a fresh surge in several parts

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 10:** Experts said people lowering their guard and vacation period are the main reasons behind the recent increase in coronavirus cases in the national capital. Delhi logged 622 fresh Covid-19 cases and two deaths Thursday, while the positivity rate rose to 3.17 per cent, according to data shared by the city health department. On June 1, the city had reported 368 cases with a positivity rate of 1.74 per cent. Within a span of 10 days, cases have crossed the 500-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

mark in terms of single-day infections. On Wednesday, the national capital had seen 564 infections in a single day, highest since May 15 when 613 cases were reported. B L Sherwal, medical superintendent, RML Hospital said there is a need to keep a vigil, but one should not panic. "Everybody has lowered the guard so such spikes (of cases) will happen. Patients are recovering in three

to four days, and are having fever, body ache or loose motions. The good thing is that there is no lung involvement and requirement of oxygen," he said. The senior doctor added that only those who are very sick and advised by doctors are getting admitted to hospitals. SK Arora, medical director, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital attributed the increase in incidences of coronavirus infection to the vacation season. "This has become a common mild infection and such spurts will happen. Also, it is the vacation season and people are travelling from one state to another, and there will be such instances reported. But the only thing is that the infections are mild," he added. As of Thursday, 85 of 9,630 hospital beds were occupied. According to Delhi Corona mobile application, the number of hospital beds stood at 85 even on Friday, while 28 out of 2,218 ICU beds are occupied.

## Covid spurt in Goa

**Panaji:** Even as Covid cases in the state have witnessed a spurt in recent days, the period between June 15 to July 15 will be a crucial period for the state, in order to judge the impact of the fresh wave of the pandemic. Speaking to reporters, Dr. Shekhar Salkar, a member of the Goa government's expert committee for Covid management, the government may have to make wearing of masks compulsory if the number of daily new cases in the state shoot beyond 50 or the infection positivity rate passes 10 per cent. "The current number of (daily) cases is between 30 and 50. If it crosses 50 and the positivity percentage crosses 10, then we may have to make masks compulsory. Right now there is only an advisory for masks," Salkar said.

## Woman raped in hotel by man she met on dating app

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, June 10:** A 28-year-old woman was allegedly raped at a five-star hotel in the national capital whom she had met on a dating app, an official said Friday. According to the official, a case was registered on June 3 based on the woman's complaint in which the victim alleged that she was raped by a man at a hotel in Dwarka area of Delhi May 30.



"The victim woman, who used to work in a shop, alleged that she met the accused through Tinder (dating app)," Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (Dwarka) M. Harsha Vardhan said. The accused, who is a resident of Hyderabad, did not pick up her calls after allegedly committing the crime. "Thus, based on her complaint, a case was registered. Efforts are on to nab the accused," the senior official added.

## TIME TO TAKE ACTION

### Toxic froth back in Yamuna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 10:** Pictures and videos of toxic froth floating in the Yamuna in Delhi made their way back on social media, with experts citing untreated sewage and detergents as the major reason behind the pollution. The primary reason behind the formation of the toxic foam is high phosphate content in the wastewater because of detergents used in dyeing industries, dhobi ghats and households in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, they said. Devotees standing knee-deep in the toxic foam-laden river during Chhath puja celebrations in November last year had attracted global attention. Officials said the problem of frothing will continue unless sewage treatment plants and common effluent treatment plants in Delhi are upgraded to meet the new standards and all unauthorised colonies are connected to the sewer network. Wastewater from authorised

colonies and settlements containing high phosphate content reach the river through untapped drains. When water falls from a height at a barrage, the turbulence agitates the phosphoric compounds in the river which leads to the formation of froth, they said. Frothing in certain stretches of the river, such as near ITO and Okhla Barrage, has become an annual phenomenon in winters when the temperatures are low and flow in the river is less. The 22-kilometre stretch of the Yamuna between Wazirabad and Okhla, which is less than two per cent of its total length of 1,370 kilometres from Yamunotri to Allahabad, accounts for around 80 percent of the pollution load in the river. The Delhi government had in June last year banned the sale, storage, transportation, and marketing of soaps and detergents not conforming to the latest BIS standards to curb the pollution in the river.



PTI FILE PHOTO

# Goa to launch app to spot & mend potholes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, June 10:** With constant complaints from the public and criticism by the Opposition about the potholes on roads, the Goa government has decided to launch an app to identify them, and repair the roads. The Congress in the state had launched 'Spot the Potholes' campaign before the assembly election and had targeted the BJP government for failing to repair potholes. Cabral recently announced plans to make roads of the state free of potholes within the next one year. "Today, the cabinet approved the proposal of appointing two agencies, who are giving guarantee of 18 months of repaired roads," Cabral told reporters here.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

He said that these machines will work for North and South Goa. He said that the government will not buy the machines but the contractor will take care of the fi-

nancial part. Cabral said that there are many difficulties to achieve the goal of 100 per cent pothole-free state, but he is trying for that. "This jetpatcher machine can

The Goa cabinet Thursday approved two agencies having 'jetpatcher' machines to mend the potholes, PWD Minister Nilesch Cabral said

suck the water from potholes and repair the potholes. But it is not possible if there is heavy rain. We are starting this (technology) on a trial basis," he said, adding that he is of the opinion that roads should be pothole-free. Cabral also mentioned that many years ago, the Goa government had brought such machines, which did not come to use.



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reviews the implementation of Tree Transplantation Policy, at Mayur Vihar in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

## 'Mariculture policy' for fish production

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Panaji, June 10:** Amid fears of a fish famine expressed by experts, the Goa government has notified 'Goa State Mariculture Policy 2020' to carry out open sea cage fish culture in the territorial waters of the state of Goa. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday had urged the scientists and students of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) to suggest to the government to increase fish productivity by adopting modern ways. NIO has played a vital role to increase production of green mussels in Goa, training of which was given to stakeholders. According to marine experts pollution near Goa's river mouths and in the waters off the state's coastline as well as over-fishing using banned practices like bull trawling and LED fishing, leads to fish famine in the state. The fishermen from Goa are demanding action against illegal practices used to catch fish in the sea. Goa Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar, earlier had said the Central government has sanctioned Rs 400 crore for setting up of cage fishing infrastructure to boost the coastal state's fishing catch output. The Central grant is aimed at aiding cage fishing culture in Goa in order to boost fish catch in Goa.

# Delhi govt to hire agency to test mid-day meals



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 10:** Delhi government will hire an agency to test mid-day meals served in its schools to ensure that the meals meet the prescribed standards of quality and nutritional value, according to officials. "The government will hire an agency which will pick random samples from schools as well as the kitchens and godowns. Samples of both the cooked food as well as raw materials will be tested at regular intervals," an official of the Directorate of Education (DoE) said. "The idea is to ensure that only quality meals are served to children

The midday meal or PM-POSHAN scheme, under which hot cooked meals are served to address the nutritional needs of children, covers government and government-aided school students of classes I-VIII, as well as pre-primary classes

During closure of schools due to the pandemic, the food security allowance was continued through the distribution of dry ration kits

in schools and the prescribed nutritional value is not compromised." According to official data, there are 8.24 lakh beneficiaries in over

1200 state run schools in the national capital.

However, the Programme Approval Board (PAB), which decides the work plan and budget for the midday meal scheme annually, noted in its recent meeting that over 4.8 lakh children were left out of the midday meal scheme during the 2021-22 academic session in Delhi due to shortage of foodgrains.

The Delhi government in collaboration with Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) in April had also started a social audit of distribution of dry ration under mid-day meal scheme.



# '64 % of Delhi's winter pollution caused by outside sources'

IN NOVEMBER- DECEMBER 2021, APART FROM THE GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN (GRAP) COMING INTO EFFECT IN DELHI-NCR, THE COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT INTRODUCED SEVERAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEASURES THROUGH A SERIES OF DIRECTIONS AND ORDERS

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, June 10:** Around 64 per cent of Delhi's winter pollution load comes from outside the capital's boundaries, with "burning of agricultural waste" and "burning for heating and cooking needs" being the major sources, according to a study.

The researchers used data from publicly available air quality forecasts, including Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (3-day and 10-day), Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi (DSS), and UrbanEmissions.Info. "Sixty-four per cent of Delhi's winter pollution load comes from outside its boundaries. Biomass burning of agricultural waste during the stubble burning phase and burning for heating and cooking needs during peak winter are



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

the major sources of air pollution from outside the city, according to UrbanEmissions.Info," the study said. Data gathered from UrbanEmissions.Info showed that

open fires (31.68 percent), dust (15.84 percent) and transport (11.88 percent) were the major sources of pollution in the "stubble burning" phase between October 15 and November

15 last year. In the "post-stubble burning" phase from November 15 to December 15, use of biomass for household heating and cooking (17 percent), dust (17 percent) and transport (16 percent) contributed the most to the air pollution in the capital. Interestingly, use of biomass for household heating and cooking (31.68 percent) emerged as the major contributor in the peak winter phase between December 15 and January 15, followed by dust (15.84 percent) and transport (14.85 percent). The researchers called for surveys in residential areas across NCR to explore the prevalence of biomass usage for heating and cooking purposes. "Based on this, a targeted support mechanism is required to allow households and others to use clean fuels for cooking and heating. There

is also a need to assess and promote alternatives for space heating," they said. This study also assessed actions taken to tackle winter pollution last year. The Supreme Court also stepped in from time to time to direct the authorities to act on air pollution. The first set of restrictions was put in place November 16, and all were lifted by December 20, barring the one on industrial operations, it said. While air quality forecasts picked up the pollution trends, they are not yet very accurate in predicting high pollution episodes ('very poor' and 'severe' air quality days), the researchers noted. When the restrictions were in place like ban on entry of trucks, construction and demolition activities and others, air quality did not descend into the 'severe plus' category, they said.

राजस्थानी सं. डी. एल.-33004/99 REGD. NO. D. L.-33004/99

**भारत का राजपत्र**  
The Gazette of India

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असाधारण  
EXTRAORDINARY  
भाग II - खण्ड 3 - उप-खण्ड (ii)  
PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2174] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, मई 18, 2022/ वैशाख 28, 1944  
No. 2174] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022/ VAISAKHA 28, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
NOTIFICATION  
New Delhi, the 18th May, 2022

S.O. 2293(E). - In the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide notification number S.O. 4830(E), dated the 23rd November, 2021, the existing notification shall be amended in the following manner with immediate effect:

(i) In the paragraph 1, line no. 4, the words "S.O. No. 4240 (E) dated 22nd November 2019" shall be read as "S.O. No. 873 (E) dated 23rd February 2021 and 3357 (E) 17th August 2021".

(ii) In the paragraph 2, line no. 1 and 2, after the words "published in", words "Sambad" and "Samaja" Newspaper both dated 16th January, 2020, shall be read "Orissa Post" and "Odisha Bhaskar" Newspaper both dated 21st April, 2021.

(iii) In the paragraph 7, below SCHEDULE, in line no.2, after the word "Raipur Visakhapatnam", the word "NH-130 CD" shall be inserted.

The rest of the contents of the original Notification published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide notification S.O. 4830(E) dated the 23rd November, 2021 shall remain unchanged.

Note: The original notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section(ii), vide notification number S.O. 4830(E) dated the 23rd November, 2021.

[F. No. NHA/11013/LA/PIU-SBP, Odisha/ Raipur-Vizag/Notif.(3a)/3D1 Corr.]  
RAJESH GUPTA, Director



### of the day quote

The NDA government at the Centre has failed miserably in creating jobs for the youth of the country

KT RAMA RAO | TRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Roads in the rural area adjoining cities will soon be upgraded to four-lane to make traffic movement smoother

MANOHAAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

The Modi government should realise that the world will not dance to the tunes of the BJP and the RSS

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Acid attacker arrested

Bangalore: The Karnataka police arrested a man for throwing acid on a woman within hours of the crime in Bangalore Friday. The arrested person was identified as Ahmad, a resident of Goripalya. The accused threw acid on a married woman on Friday morning for refusing to marry him. This was the third acid attack in the last 2 months in Bangalore causing panic and outrage among the public.

### ED summons Sonia on June 23

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh summons to Congress president Sonia Gandhi to appear before it for questioning on June 23 in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper, officials said Friday. Sonia Gandhi, 75, was earlier asked to depose on June 8 but as she got infected with COVID-19, she sought a fresh date from the federal probe agency.

### BJP leader held

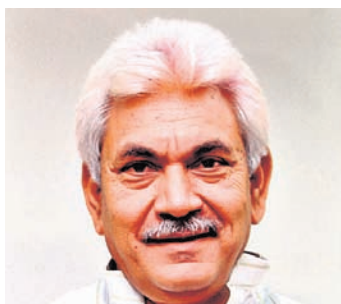
Hyderabad: Telangana Police Friday arrested state BJP leader Jitta Balakrishna Reddy for insulting Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu by organising a skit. Police arrested him from Ghatkesar toll plaza near Hyderabad in the early hours of the day. A court in Rangareddy district later granted him bail. Police said the BJP leader was arrested for indulging in hate speech and inciting hatred and causing provocation for violence through an event organised by the cultural team of the BJP on Telangana Formation Day (June 2).

### 2 militants arrested

Srinagar: Two active terrorists linked to proscribed terror outfit LeT were arrested by security forces from Baramulla district Friday, police said. "Acting on a specific information, police, along with army, arrested two active terrorists of LeT, identified as Irshad Ahmad Mir, son of Abdul Rehman Mir, and a categorised terrorist, and Zahid Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmad, both residents of Nehalpora Pattan area of Baramulla," a police official said.

### Four killed

Aurriya (Uttar Pradesh): Four persons were killed and five critically injured when a speeding roadways bus collided with a car Friday morning on Bela Bidhuna Marg. The roadways bus, going from Bidhuna to Kanpur, ramed into a car coming from the opposite direction. Four occupants of the car died on the spot in the accident, while five others were seriously injured.



The terrorists, their supporters and other support setup are using new methods. They are radicalising the youths

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU & KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

### K'TAKA EDU DEPT RELIEVED

In a relief to the Education Department of Karnataka government, students insisting on wearing hijab have started to shun it and attend classes. Sources said that it is a welcome development which could encourage other students insisting on wearing hijab to shun it



## New guidelines issued to curb misleading ads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: The government Friday announced new guidelines to curb misleading advertisements and endorsers by banning surrogate ads, while imposing strict norms for those advertisements that seek to lure consumers offering discounts and free claims.

The new guidelines on "Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022" also seeks to regulate advertisements targeting children. The guidelines, notified by the consumer affairs ministry and that have come into force with immediate effect, also specify due diligence to be carried out while endorsing in advertisements.

Action against violation of the new guidelines will be taken as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), which provides for a penalty of Rs 10 lakh for first offence and Rs 50 lakh for subsequent contravention.

Announcing the guidelines, consumer affairs secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said: "Advertisements have great interest for consumers. Under

Action against violation of the new guidelines will be taken as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act (CPA), which provides for a penalty of Rs 10 lakh for first offence and Rs 50 lakh for subsequent contravention

The new guidelines on "Prevention of Misleading Advertisements and Endorsements for Misleading Advertisements, 2022" seeks to regulate advertisements targeting children



the CCPA Act, there are provisions to handle misleading advertisements affecting consumers' rights." But to make it more explicit, clear and aware to the industry, the government has come out with guidelines for fair advertising with effect from today," he said.

The guidelines will be applicable to advertisements published on all platforms like print, television and online. Stating that these guidelines will not bring change overnight, the secretary said, however, it gives a framework for the industry stakeholders to prevent misleading ads even by mistake and will also empower consumers and consumer organisations to file

complaints against misleading ads. The secretary also mentioned that these guidelines will apply to government advertisements issued by PSUs engaged in providing consumer services, he said.

The advertising guidelines for self-regulation issued by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) will also be in place in a parallel manner, he added.

Elaborating on the guidelines, regulator Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) Chief Commissioner and Additional Secretary in the Consumer Affairs Ministry Nidhi Khare said: "CCPA has taken action against misleading ads during the pandemic. We

felt that there was a need to have guidelines, so that stakeholders are aware of them and do not violate without knowledge."

Misleading advertisement has already been defined under section 2(28) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The present guidelines define "bait advertisement", "surrogate advertisement" and clearly provides what constitutes as "free claim advertisements".

Bait advertisement means an advertisement in which goods, products or service is offered for sale at a low price to attract consumers. Besides, the guidelines lay down conditions to be complied with while issuing bait advertisements and free claims advertisements, enumerating various factors to be considered in publishing ads especially targeting children.

The guidelines forbid advertisements from exaggerating the features of product or service in such manner as to lead children to have unrealistic expectations of such product or service and claim any health or nutritional claims or benefits without being adequately and scientifically substantiated by a recognized body.

## BJP LEADER SPARKS DEBATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Rajkot, June 10: BJP state vice-president Friday announced that the model code of conduct for Gujarat Assembly election will come into effect from October 15, triggering a political debate over his authority to do so.

While addressing the district BJP working committee meeting, party vice-president Bharat Boghra said: "Assembly election's model code of conduct will be effective from October 15, which means we hardly have 100 to 125 days to pull up our socks. State leaders too are working for the elections, now we at the district level have to work harder."

Reacting to it, Lalit Kagathra, Congress MLA from Tankara said: "I am not surprised with BJP leader's forecast of elections date as the ruling party has degraded all constitutional institutes' sanctity. Tomorrow, if BJP leader forecast Supreme Court's judgement on any particular case in advance, it should not come as a surprise," he said.

He even questioned the authority of BJP vice-president and also asked whether it was the party or the Election Commission who planned the elections. Before announcing the date, did Boghra speak to Chief Election Commissioner or any other officers to get inside information? he added.



It is neither forecast nor inside information, but a simple calculation that the Election Commission issues election notification 60 days prior to the elections date. In 2017 too, Model Code Conduct was effective from October 12, defended Yagnesh Dave, BJP media coordinator.

## HOLY PILGRIMAGE



A sadhu holds a trident after arriving at the base camp of Amarnath Yatra in Jammu district

PTI PHOTO

## Will take strict legal action against use of children: NCPCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Amid protests over controversial remarks made by two now-suspended BJP leaders against Prophet Mohammad, the apex child rights body NCPCR said Friday that children were used in many of these "violent demonstrations" and that it would take strict legal action in the matter.

Protests erupted in several parts of the country, including outside Delhi's Jama Masjid, with hundreds of people demanding the arrest of Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal over their controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammad.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chief Priyank Kanoongo has claimed that children were

used in many of these "violent demonstrations". "Instances of use of children in violent demonstrations have come to notice again today. Strict legal action will be taken and not a single extremist ('charampanthi') will be spared," Kanoongo said in a tweet in Hindi.

He said there are laws in place and the NCPCR will not let children be "used by these extremists". "We will look into all the protests where children were used and then we will issue individual notices to police to take action against people who used children and also seek registration of FIR against them," Kanoongo said. Earlier, the NCPCR chief had asked the Uttar Pradesh Police to probe if children were engaged by "anti-social" elements in the recent communal violence in Kanpur.

### PROPHET ROW

## Kolkata cop opens fire, kills self

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 10: A policeman allegedly fired several rounds near the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in central Kolkata's busy Park Circus area Friday afternoon, killing a woman and injuring two people before shooting himself dead, police said.

The incident happened around 2:30 pm a few hundred metres away from the Seven-Point Crossing where thousands of people had gathered to protest against the inflammatory remarks made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

The woman, identified as Rima Singha of Dasnagar in Howrah, was passing by, riding pillion on a bike taxi when she was hit by a bullet as the on-duty policeman kept firing from his Self-Loading Rifle (SLR), triggering chaos in the congested area, police said.



She died on the spot, while the policeman after firing a few rounds more shot himself in the head, they added. The gunman, Constable Chodhup Lepcha of the Fifth Battalion of Kolkata Armed Police, fired at least 15-20 rounds, a senior police officer said.

"He was on duty outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission. Suddenly, he started firing indiscriminately and walked along Lower Range to AJC Bose

Road-Beckbagan crossing," the officer said.

Lepcha specifically targeted the woman as the two-wheeler was passing by, he said. Two by-standers were also injured in the firing. They were admitted to the Chittaranjan National Medical College and Hospital, he said.

The incident had no connection with the protest at Seven-Point Crossing, the officer said, replying to a question.

## Agartala-Kolkata via Bangladesh bus service resumes

Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner Arif Mohammad said after a lot of efforts, the bus service has resumed fulfilling the expectations of people of both countries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agartala, June 10: The Agartala-Kolkata via Bangladesh bus service, which was suspended in March 2020 after the outbreak of Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed on cross-border movement, resumed on Friday to facilitate easier ferrying of people from the northeast region of India to the rest of the country.

Tripura Transport and Tourism

Minister Pranajit Singha Roy accompanied by Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh diplomatic mission in Agartala Arif Mohammad and Agartala Municipal Corporation Mayor Dipak Majumder flagged off the bus service, to be operated by the newly floated Royal Maitri International Bus Service.

Singha Roy said that the 40-seater passenger bus would fly six days in a week excluding Friday. From Agartala it will reach Dhaka in four hours and Kolkata in 19 hours. In all 28 passengers - 22 Indians and six Bangladesh nationals - boarded the airconditioned luxury bus on Friday.

Roy said that the bus service would not only help the people of Tripura and other northeastern states to go to Kolkata (with a fare of Rs 2200) and then other parts of



India on a cheap fare but will also boost trade, tourism and strengthen the people to people contacts.

"In the near future, air, rail and waterway connectivity would be launched between Tripura and various cities of Bangladesh. After the completion of the work of the

under construction railway line, we expect the railway service between Tripura and Bangladesh would start next year," Singha Roy said.

Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner Arif Mohammad said after a lot of efforts, the bus

service has resumed fulfilling the expectations of people of both countries. "The passenger bus service is the symbol of Maitri' (friendship) - that is why, we call it Maitri Bus," he added.

Tripura's Principal Secretary, Transport, Lailia Darlong said that last month the External Affairs Ministry had given a no-objection to the Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya governments to resume bus services with Bangladesh.

According to a bilateral agreement, the government-owned transport corporation and the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation had started several bus services between Agartala, Shillong, Guwahati, Dhaka, and Kolkata but these were suspended due to various reasons, including the Covid-19 outbreak.

A large number of people of the

northeastern states and West Bengal prefer bus rides via Bangladesh not only because of the shorter distance (around 500 km between Agartala-Kolkata) and very affordable fares, but for the exciting landscape of Bangladesh plains, emotional attachment with that country and crossing the mighty Padma river on a ferry.

In view of the railway lines cut-off in Assam from May 14, the bus service became very important for the people of Tripura, Mizoram and southern Assam to go to Kolkata and other parts of India.

Due to the railway line disruptions in Assam, the fares of different flights operating between Mizoram, Tripura, and southern Assam increased by three to four times, severely affecting the people bound for Kolkata, Delhi and other cities in India by air.



Russia will contribute to the normalisation of the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan SERGEI LAVROV | RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

NO DEATH PENALTY

Malaysia has agreed to abolish the mandatory death penalty and allow judges to set alternative punishments for a range of offenses, the country's law minister said



of the day quote

Russia is now earning more money from fossil fuel exports than before its ongoing invasion of Ukraine which prompted Western nations to target Moscow with a barrage of sanctions

AMOS HOCHSTEIN | US SENIOR ADVISOR FOR GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY

All the measures adopted by the Israeli enemy cannot protect the Greek vessel in its oil extraction operations in the Karish field

SAYYED HASSAN NASRALLAH | HEZBOLLAH LEADER

The government is making maximum effort to reduce the impact through providing financial and logistical support

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Musharraf hospitalised

Lahore/Dubai: Pakistan's former military dictator General Pervez Musharraf is hospitalised in the UAE after his condition deteriorated as he is going through a 'difficult stage where recovery is not possible', his family said on Friday amidst speculation about his well-being.

Pope cancels trip to Congo, S Sudan

Vatican City: Pope Francis cancelled a planned July trip to Africa on doctors' orders because of ongoing knee problems, the Vatican said Friday, raising further questions about the health and mobility problems of the 85-year-old pontiff.

10 killed in bus accident

Kabul: Ten Afghan civilians were killed and two other injured in an accident involving a mini-bus in Afghanistan's Daykundi province, the media reported Friday.

Italy searches for missing chopper

Rome: Italian rescue crews resumed searching Friday for a helicopter carrying seven people, including four Turkish citizens, that went missing in a forested, mountainous area of north-central Italy.

Japan reopens borders after 2 yrs

Tokyo: For the first time in two years, Japan Friday reopened its borders to some foreign tourists as it continues to take steps to increase inbound tourism to support the economy as concerns over the Covid-19 pandemic ease.

Trump accused of 'attempted coup'

AGENCIES

Washington, June 10: A congressional panel investigating last year's assault on the U.S. Capitol by Donald Trump's supporters presented evidence at its prime-time hearing that the former president posed a danger both to American democracy and his vice president, Mike Pence.

Representative Liz Cheney, the Republican vice chair of the House of Representatives select committee probing the January 6, 2021, attack, told the hearing Thursday that Trump spoke approvingly of the mob's chants to "hang Mike Pence."

On Thursday night, two panel members delivered opening remarks while presenting the findings of its year-long investigation, including previously unseen material documenting the event, reports Xinhua news agency.

The panel, which includes seven House Democrats and two Republicans, also called two witnesses, including Caroline Edwards, the first police officer injured in the attack. Edwards testified that she was called a "traitor" and a "dog" by the rioters before she was knocked unconscious.

It was one of a series of hearings set to be televised throughout the month to show the public what investigators have uncovered about the Capitol riot. Democrat Bennie Thompson, the select committee's chairman, told the hearing: "January 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup, a brazen attempt, as one writer put it shortly after January 6, to overthrow the government."

"The violence was no accident. It was Trump's last stand." In her remarks, Liz Cheney, the Republican vice-chair of the com-



An investigation into how and why the Capitol riots of 6 January 2021 happened has been broadcast live on US prime time TV - with some shocking reveals



the incumbent administration stays in power based on its view, unsupported by specific evidence, that there was fraud in the election," the BBC quoted Barr as saying. Meanwhile, Trump's allies and supporters have charged the inquiry as a political "witch hunt" designed to tar the former President and the Republican Party.

CAPITOL RIOTS

mittee, said that Trump had "lit the flame of this attack", the BBC reported. "Those who invaded our Capitol and battled law enforcement for hours were motivated by what President Trump had told them: that the election was stolen and that he was the rightful President."

"We can't live in a world where

US lifts Cov test requirement for int'l travel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 10: The Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travellers to the US take a Covid-19 test within a day before boarding their flights, easing one of the last remaining government mandates meant to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

A senior administration official said the mandate expires Sunday at 12.01 am (local time), saying the Centres for Disease Control and

Ukraine calls for more help

AGENCIES

Kyiv, June 10: Ukrainian officials pleaded for more help from the West Friday, including quicker deliveries of artillery and battle-field rocket systems, to hold off Russian forces at a critical time in the battle in the east.

Heavy fighting was still being reported in Sievierodonetsk, the small eastern city that has become the focus of Russia's advance and site of one of the bloodiest battles in a war that has increased financial and physical hardship around the world.

Chronic hunger could afflict up to 19 million more people globally over the next year due to reduced exports of wheat and other food commodities from Ukraine and Russia, the United Nations' food agency said.

Within Ukraine, officials said they were worried about the spread of deadly cholera and dysentery in the southern city of Mariupol, where tens of thousands of civilians live in ruins captured last month after being pulverized by Russian siege.

In a speech via video-link to a democracy conference in Copenhagen, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy pleaded for his country to be accepted as a part of the



West, with binding guarantees for its protection.

"The European Union can take a historic step that will prove that words about the people of Ukraine belonging to the European family are not just words, and therefore are not empty," he said, calling on the EU to accept Ukraine's request to be accepted as a membership candidate.

Ukrainian officials say the war in the east has become primarily an artillery battle, in which they are severely outgunned by Moscow. The tide could be turned only if the West fulfils promises to send more and better artillery, including rocket systems that Washington and others have promised.

'100-200 SOLDIERS KILLED DAILY'

Up to 200 Ukrainian soldiers are being killed every day in Russia's military onslaught, according to an adviser to Ukraine's president - and only more and more advanced Western weaponry will turn back the Russian offensive, reduce the casualties and force Moscow to the negotiating table.

US lifts Cov test requirement for int'l travel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, June 10: The Biden administration is lifting its requirement that international air travellers to the US take a Covid-19 test within a day before boarding their flights, easing one of the last remaining government mandates meant to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

A senior administration official said the mandate expires Sunday at 12.01 am (local time), saying the Centres for Disease Control and



Prevention has determined that it's no longer necessary.

The official, speaking Friday on the condition of anonymity to preview the formal announcement,

said that the agency would reevaluate the need for the testing requirement every 90 days and that it could be reinstated if a troubling new variant emerges.

The Biden administration put in place the testing requirement last year, as it moved away from restrictions that banned nonessential travel from several dozen countries - most of Europe, China, Brazil, South Africa, India and Iran - and instead focuses on classifying individuals by the risk they pose to others.

CHINA CALLS COV 'LAB LEAK' THEORY A LIE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, June 10: China Friday attacked the theory that the coronavirus pandemic may have originated as a leak from a Chinese laboratory as a politically motivated lie, after the World Health Organization recommended in its strongest terms yet that a deeper probe is needed into whether a lab accident may be to blame.

He also reiterated calls for an investigation into "highly suspicious laboratories such as Fort Detrick and the University of North Carolina" in the United States where China has suggested, without evidence, that the US was developing the coronavirus as a bioweapon.

"The lab leak theory is totally a lie concocted by anti-China forces for political purposes, which has nothing to do with science," Zhao said at a daily briefing. "We always supported and partici-

pated in science-based global virus tracing, but we firmly opposed any forms of political manipulation," he said.

Zhao said China has made major contributions toward virus tracing, sharing the most data and research results.

That "fully reflects China's open, transparent and responsible attitude, as well as its support for the work of the WHO and the advisory group," he said.

The WHO's stance in a report released Thursday is a sharp reversal of the U.N. Health agency's initial assessment of the pandemic's origins. It comes after many critics accused WHO of being too quick to dismiss or underplay a lab-leak theory that put Chinese officials on the defensive. Following a tightly controlled visit to China last year, the WHO concluded that it was "extremely unlikely" the coronavirus might have spread to humans from a lab in the city of Wuhan.

ON THE BOIL



Demonstrators protest amidst tear gas used by the police to disperse them during a protest outside the Sri Lanka's police headquarters. India has provided a \$ 55 million Line of Credit to crisis-hit Sri Lanka for the import of fertiliser. Meanwhile, the IMF is planning to send an in-person mission in the coming weeks to Sri Lanka for policy discussions on a financial arrangement

PAK TO RAISE TAXES ON RICH, BAN CAR BUYING

REUTERS

Islamabad, June 10: Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said on Friday the government would raise taxes on the rich and ban government officials from buying new cars, amid pressure to control the fiscal deficit and secure International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout money.

Ismail, unveiling the budget for the 2022/23 fiscal year that starts in July, said that it would raise taxes on the rich, ban the import of cars and the buying of new vehicles by government officials. It was not immediately clear if the ban related just to official vehicles or those for personal use.



The nation of 220 million people is facing a balance of payments crisis, with foreign reserves falling below \$10 billion, hardly enough for 45 days of imports, and a widening current account and ballooning fiscal deficits

NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT

Microplastics found in fresh Antarctic snow for 1st time

THE RESEARCHERS FOUND AN AVERAGE OF 29 MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES PER LITRE OF MELTED SNOW, WHICH IS HIGHER THAN MARINE CONCENTRATIONS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY FROM THE SURROUNDING ROSS SEA AND IN ANTARCTIC SEA ICE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, June 10: Scientists have found microplastics - plastic pieces much smaller than a grain of rice - in freshly fallen Antarctic snow for the first time, which they said has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating melting of ice.

The findings, published recently in The Cryosphere journal, bring to light a serious threat to the Antarctic region.

Previous studies have found that microplastics have negative impacts on the health of the environment, limiting growth, reproduction, and general biological functions in organisms, as well as negative implications for humans.

In late 2019, Alex Aves, a PHD student at the University of Canterbury



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

in New Zealand collected snow samples from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

At the time, there had been few studies investigating the presence of microplastics in the air, and it



was unknown how widespread this problem was, the researchers said.

"When Alex travelled to Antarctica in 2019, we were optimistic that she wouldn't find any microplastics in such a pristine

and remote location," said Laura Revell, Associate Professor at the University of Canterbury.

Once back in the lab, the researchers found that there were plastic particles in every sample from the remote sites on the Ross Ice Shelf too, and that the findings would be of global significance.

"It is incredibly sad but finding microplastics in fresh Antarctic snow highlights the extent of plastic pollution into even the most remote regions of the world," Aves said. "We collected snow samples from 19 sites across the Ross Island region of Antarctica and found microplastics in all of these," she added.

On a wider scale, the presence of microplastic particles in the air has the potential to influence the climate by accelerating melting of

snow and ice, the researchers said. Aves analysed snow samples using a chemical analysis technique to identify the type of plastic particles present.

The plastic particles were also looked at under a microscope to identify their colour, size and shape.

The researchers found an average of 29 microplastic particles per litre of melted snow, which is higher than marine concentrations reported previously from the surrounding Ross Sea and in Antarctic sea ice.

Just next to the scientific bases on Ross Island, Scott Base, and McMurdo Station, the largest station in Antarctica, the density of microplastics was nearly three-times higher, with similar concentrations to those found in Italian glacier debris, they said.



There are no plans to review the basic customs duty levied on solar modules and cells. I don't want any Chinese imports and want everything Made in India  
**RK SINGH | UNION POWER MINISTER**

## MEESHO'S SALE LOG 5MN ORDERS

SoftBank and Meta-backed e-commerce startup Meesho recorded 5.35 million orders during its one-day sale event, registering a five-fold jump on a year-on-year basis. Meesho had registered 1 million orders during the 'Maha Indian Savings Sale' it hosted June 6, last year



## of the day quote

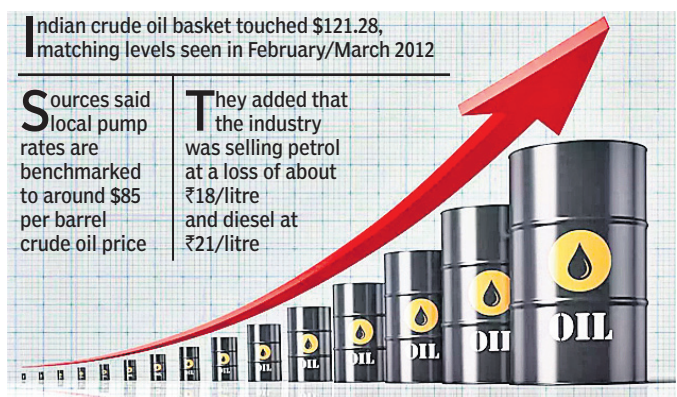
We are very concerned about the temporary blip in LIC share price. People will take time to understand (fundamentals of) LIC. LIC management will look into all these aspects and will raise the shareholders' value  
**TUHIN KANTA PANDEY | DIPAM SECRETARY**

We are very concerned by the use of food and fertilizer export restrictions, which can exacerbate global price increases and market volatility. Our monitoring indicates that some 30 countries, in fact, have curtailed exports of commodity goods. So, this goes beyond India  
**GERRY RICE | SPOKESPERSON, IMF**

What concerns me more is the environment that has promoted this mad whole rush. Why are people who have no business to be in the business of EVs trying to get into the business? This must be fixed  
**RAJIV BAJAJ | MD, BAJAJ AUTO**

# Indian crude basket hits decade high

**FUEL PRICES, PARTICULARLY DIESEL, HAVE A CASCADING EFFECT ON INFLATION AS AN ELEVATED PRICE WILL LEAD TO HIGHER TRANSPORTATION COSTS, SPIKING PRICES ACROSS THE BOARD, INCLUDING ESSENTIALS LIKE VEGETABLES**



Indian crude oil basket touched \$121.28, matching levels seen in February/March 2012  
Sources said local pump rates are benchmarked to around \$85 per barrel crude oil price  
They added that the industry was selling petrol at a loss of about ₹18/litre and diesel at ₹21/litre  
Retail fuel rates, however, continue to be on a freeze in India. State-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are supposed to adjust petrol and diesel prices daily in line with the cost, but they have been since November 2021 moderating pump rates. India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs and so local pump rates are benchmarked against international prices. Industry sources said local pump rates are benchmarked to around \$85 per barrel crude oil price but oil firms haven't changed rates as they aid the government in trying to control inflation, which already is ruling at an almost eight-year high of 7.8 per cent. Petrol and diesel prices were last revised to align with the cost April 6 and have been on freeze since then. Last month, rates were reduced after the government cut excise duty on petrol by ₹8 per litre and that on diesel by ₹6. Last week, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that oil companies are responsible corporate citizens and that the government wasn't dictating retail selling prices. Despite a surge in oil prices, the three state fuel retailers first froze petrol and diesel rates for a record 137 days beginning in early November 2021 when five states, including Uttar Pradesh, went to the polls and then went into a hiatus again in April that is now 65 days old. While state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have maintained retail operations despite losses, private sector retailers like Reliance-BP and Nayara Energy have curtailed operations to cut losses. In some places, Nayara is selling fuel at rates that are ₹3 a litre higher than public sector competition.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 10:** The basket of crude oil that India buys has hit a decade high of \$121 per barrel, but retail selling prices of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. The Indian basket June 9 touched \$121.28, matching levels seen in February/March 2012, according to data available from the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning and

Analysis Cell (PPAC). As per the PPAC, the Indian basket of crude oil averaged \$111.86 per barrel between February 25 and March 29 - the immediate period after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent oil on fire. It averaged \$103.44 a barrel between March 30 and April 27. International oil prices held near a 13-week high Thursday, underpinned by robust demand from key buyers like the US. They, however, pared some gains Friday, with Brent crude futures for August losing 81 cents to trade at \$122.26 per barrel. US West Texas Intermediate crude for July was at \$120.72 a barrel, down 79 cents.

## FRY DAY FOR DALAL STREET

# Sensex crashes as macro risks pile up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, June 10:** The Sensex nosedived over 1,000 points while the Nifty slumped to the 16,200-level Friday as investors dashed to safer assets as hardening crude oil prices fanned inflation fears and triggered a global sell-off. With unrelenting foreign fund outflows, the rupee plunged to a fresh lifetime low against the US dollar, further denting sentiment. The 30-share BSE Sensex opened weak and stayed in the negative territory throughout the session. It finally ended 1,016.84 points or 1.84 per cent lower at 54,303.44. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 276.30 points or 1.68 per cent to 16,201.80. Kotak Mahindra Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.96 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, Reliance Industries, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and Tata Steel. On the other hand, Asian Paints, Dr Reddy's, UltraTech Cement, HUL, Titan, Maruti, Nestle India



Investors lost ₹3.11 lakh crore in Friday's session, with the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms falling to ₹2,51,84,358.86 crore

and NTPC finished with gains of up to 0.78 per cent. On a weekly basis, the Sensex tumbled 1,465.79 points or 2.63 per cent, while the Nifty lost 382.50 points or 2.31 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital market, offloading shares worth ₹1,512.64 crore Thursday, as per exchange data.

## SHORT TAKES

### Industrial output up 7.1% in April

**New Delhi:** Industrial output grew by 7.1 per cent in April on better performance by power and mining sectors, as per government data released Friday. Manufacturing sector recorded a growth of 6.3 per cent in the first month of the current financial year, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). It further said growth rates over corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020.

### Forex reserves dip by \$306mn

**Mumbai:** After rising for two consecutive weeks, the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$306 million to \$601.057 billion in the week ended June 3, according to RBI data. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by \$3.854 billion to \$601.363 billion. It had risen by \$4.23 billion to \$597.509 billion in the week ended May 20. Foreign Currency Assets declined by \$208 million to \$536.779 billion in the week.

### Govt calls Edutech firms over complaints

**New Delhi:** After reprimanding restaurants and ride-hailing apps, the Consumer Affairs Ministry will soon hold a meeting with edutech firms like Byju's and Unacademy amid complaints that these platforms put extra study pressure on schools. When asked if the government is taking action against edutech companies' advertisements, especially Byju's new ad 'two teacher advantage' that is putting pressure on children, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said: "We are aware of this. I have called a meeting of edutech companies next week or so".

### PV wholesales rise two-fold in May

**New Delhi:** Passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers in India rose over two-fold last month on a low base of Covid-19-hit May last year. As per the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle wholesales rose to 2,51,052 units last month as compared to 88,045 units in May 2021. The two-wheeler sales rose to 12,53,187 units in May as compared to 3,54,824 units YoY. Similarly, total three-wheeler dispatches stood at 28,542 units last month as against 1,262 units YoY.

# Fitch betters India's outlook to 'stable'

The agency in June 2020 revised the outlook for India to 'negative' from 'stable' on grounds that the pandemic had significantly weakened the country's growth outlook

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 10:** Fitch Ratings Friday upped the outlook on India's sovereign rating to 'stable' from 'negative' after two years, citing diminishing downside risks to medium-term growth on rapid economic recovery. Fitch Ratings kept the rating unchanged at 'BBB-'. "The Outlook revision reflects our view that downside risks to medium-term growth have diminished due to India's rapid economic recovery and easing financial sector weaknesses, despite near-term headwinds from the global commodity price shock," it said. The agency, however, cut the economic growth forecast to 7.8 per cent for the current fiscal (April 2022 to March 2023) from the 8.5 per cent prediction it made in March due to the inflationary impact of the global commodity price shock. "India's economy continues to see a solid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic shock," Fitch said. Stressing that India's medium-term growth prospects remain solid, Fitch said India's strong growth outlook relative to peers is a key supporting factor for the rating, and will sustain a gradual improvement in credit metrics.

Indian economy grew 8.7% in the last fiscal, and the country's central bank RBI expects growth to be 7.2% this fiscal

"We forecast growth of around 7 per cent between FY24 and FY27, underpinned by the government's infrastructure push, reform agenda and easing pressures in the financial sector. Nevertheless, there are challenges to this forecast, given the uneven nature of the economic recovery and implementation risks for infrastructure spending and reforms," Fitch said. India enjoyed a 'BBB-' rating since the upgrade in August 2006 but the outlook has oscillated between stable and negative. The agency said achieving the 4.5 per cent fiscal deficit target by 2025-26 could prove challenging, as revenue/GDP has already returned to pre-pandemic levels. Fitch forecast the debt-to-GDP ratio to drop to 83 per cent in the current fiscal from a peak of 87.6 per cent in 2020-21, but it remains high compared to the 56 per cent peer median.



## IPL BROADCASTING RIGHTS

# Amazon to pull out of ₹60K cr race

REUTERS

**Mumbai, June 10:** US tech behemoth Amazon will not bid for rights to telecast India's premier league cricket, projected to be worth more than ₹500 billion (\$6.4 billion), a source with knowledge of the company's plans said Friday. The decision comes just two days ahead of the bidding for the television and digital broadcast rights of the hugely popular Indian Premier League, a two-month tournament that usually takes place every April and May. Amazon had decided not to participate in the bidding as the company did not find it a viable option for growth in India, said the source, who sought anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to media on the issue. The withdrawal leaves an open field for rivals such as Reliance Industries, which will bid



Amazon's surprise pullout leaves the field open to Reliance, Disney and Sony

through its broadcasting joint venture Viacom 18, Disney Plus Hotstar, and the India unit of Sony Corp when bidding takes place Sunday. Disney-owned Star India, which is one of the country's top broadcasters, along with Sony and its planned acquisition Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd, paid ₹163.48 billion (\$2.1 billion) for the rights until 2022. IPL bidding rights are seen as key to growth in India's booming online streaming market. It is to them that analysts attribute Disney's huge lead over rivals in the cricket-mad subcontinent, luring more than 50 million paid subscribers to its platform, Disney Plus Hotstar.

## Vedanta's Jal Sewa Shibir benefits over 10K in Capital



**Bhubaneswar:** Vedanta Aluminium, which had earlier launched 'Jal Sewa Shibir' in 15 strategic locations here last month in view of the scorching heat wave has been a major hit benefitting over 10,000 citizens on a daily basis. Through these outlets, cold drinking water, lemonade and buttermilk were being provided to citizens every day free in collaboration with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation. The initiative is also being carried out by Auto Mahasang and NGO Disha, led by the all-women startup Biogram. While denizens have commended the initiative, Mayor Sulochana Das appreciated the camps and said that this is a very important campaign which will help needy people in this scorching heat. Arrangements have also been made for animals and birds. "It heartens me to see our Jal Sewa Shibir help lakhs of Bhubaneswar's citizens in times of need. Vedanta Aluminium's social endeavours are aimed at improving the quality of life of Odisha's people and we remain committed to their wellbeing," said Rahul Sharma, CEO, Vedanta Aluminium.

## JSW unveils new corporate campaign 'Always Around'

**Bhubaneswar:** JSW Steel, the flagship company of JSW Group, launched its new campaign 'Always Around' to highlight the central role JSW Steel plays in our everyday lives. A first of its kind communication campaign, the company has made a transition from its current product-based communication to master-brand storytelling. As per the campaign, a creative film showcases the various applications of JSW Steel in an engaging and entertaining format through the "Claymation" concept. The film shows blue and red coloured clay blocks constantly changing form to reflect the versatile nature of steel. The film ends with the formation of the JSW Steel logo from the same pieces of clay with the tagline "Always Around", indicating the ubiquitous presence of JSW Steel. Commenting on the latest campaign, Parth Jindal of JSW Group, said, "Steel is all around us and as consumers, we do not realize how central steel is in modern living. Our latest brand campaign 'Always Around' was conceptualized to communicate the key role JSW Steel plays in our everyday lives and it originated from multiple stakeholder insights. The core thought for the campaign was to showcase our brand philosophy in a contemporary way."



# Irdai allows life insurers to launch products without prior nod

**IRDAI EXPECTS THE DECISION WILL RESULT IN IMPROVING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS FOR THE INSURERS AND ALSO LEAD TO EXPANSION OF THE CHOICES AVAILABLE TO POLICYHOLDERS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, June 10:** Regulator Irdai Friday permitted life insur-

ers to launch products without prior approval, thus giving them greater leeway in designing and pricing of insurance covers in line with market needs. This comes days after the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) extending similar relaxations to health insurance products as well as general insurance covers. At present, all life insurance products and riders require prior approval of the Irdai before launch. However, certain specified modifications are allowed to be carried out through 'Use & File' process. The regulator, in a release, said that in its continuous endeavour to



This is a positive move which will enable the growth of insurance by facilitating more innovation and providing a greater choice of solutions that help people plan for their futures  
**ASHISH K SRIVASTAVA | MD AND CEO, PNB METLIFE**

wards the reform agenda taken up towards having a fully insured India, Irdai has extended the 'Use and File' procedure for most of the

life insurance products. "In order to facilitate the life insurance industry to respond faster to the emerging market needs, in

terms of designing and pricing of insurance products and to promote ease of doing business, it is decided to expand the scope of Use & File procedure for life insurance products," a Irdai circular said. This means now the life insurance companies can also launch these products without prior approval of Irdai, the release said. It further said the move will enable life insurers to launch most of the products (except individual savings, individual pensions and annuity) in a timely manner according to the dynamic needs of the market. Surjendu Kuila, co-founder and CEO, Zopper, said the move will also allow the insurance carriers

and the underwriters to do a controlled pilot and sense the product adoption. The 'Use and File' method will help insurers to design bite size insurance products for the embedded insurance space much faster, thereby manufacturing niche products for various customer segments, Kuila added. Earlier when the industry was in nascent stage, it was made mandatory for the insurance companies to take prior approval before launching any life insurance product. However, with the maturity attained by the industry, it is envisaged that necessary relaxations may be allowed, the regulator said.

# Portugal, Spain script wins Afghanistan test awaits India



Cristiano Ronaldo congratulates Goncalo Guedes for his goal against Czech Republic, while Portugal's other scorer Joao Cancelo (4th from R) looks on, Thursday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, June 10: Portugal and Spain picked up victories in the Nations League to set up a battle between the Iberian neighbors for a spot in the Final Four. Portugal took sole possession of the lead in Group 2 of the top-tier League A by defeating the Czech Republic 2-0, while Spain earned a first win and moved into second place by edging past struggling Switzerland 1-0 in Geneva.

Portugal, the inaugural champion in 2019, is two points ahead of Spain and three in front of the Czechs after three matches. Only the group winners make it to the Final Four, while the last-placed teams will be relegated. It was the second consecutive win for Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal after it had opened with a draw against Spain, last year's runner-up to France. The Spaniards ended their winless run with the victory over last-

place Switzerland, which has lost all its matches. The Swiss hadn't been beaten at home in eight years in a run of 23 matches. Portugal opened the scoring with Joao Cancelo's low shot from a narrow angle in the 33rd minute, and Goncalo Guedes added to the lead five minutes later from inside the area after an assist by Bernardo Silva. Defender Pepe made his 127th appearance, joining Luis Figo for third-best all-time for Portugal.

The duo are behind the 145 appearances of Joao Moutinho and the 188 of Ronaldo. Spain got on the board in the 13th minute with Pablo Sarabia redirecting a cross by Marcos Llorente for a goal that had to be confirmed by video review to check for offside. It was the teams' first meeting since Spain defeated the Swiss on penalties in the quarterfinals of the European Championship last year. Portugal will close play in the June international window in Switzerland Sunday, while Spain host the Czech Republic. In the second-tier League B, Erling Haaland drew a blank in Norway's 0-0 home draw with Slovenia. Haaland arrived as one of the Nations League's leading scorers with three goals. Norway leads Group 4 while Slovenia, which was a man down from the 63rd after Miha Blazic was sent off, is in last place. Serbia won 1-0 at Sweden with a goal by Luka Jovic to jump to second place, three points ahead of the Swedes. In League C, Kosovo defeated Northern Ireland 3-2, Greece routed Cyprus 3-0, Gibraltar drew 1-1 with Bulgaria and Georgia defeated North Macedonia 3-0. Georgia's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Greece's Tasos Bakasetas each scored Thursday to join Haaland and Turkey's Serdar Dursun with three goals. Estonia won 2-1 at Malta in League D.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, June 10: The inspirational Sunil Chhetri would look to continue from where he left against Cambodia as India face Afghanistan in their second match of the Asian Cup Qualifiers here Saturday. On an evening of missed opportunities, the 37-year-old veteran struck a goal in each half to give Igor Stimac's side all three points, ensuring the group hosts keep ahead of Hong Kong on goal difference after Jorn Andersen's team won 2-1 over Afghanistan in the first match Wednesday.

Seeking to make a second successive Asian Cup Finals, the Chhetri-led India would look to bring out their best, especially up front with the likes of Liston Colaco, Manvir Singh, Udanta Singh, Ashique Kuruniyan and Roshan Singh hoping to improve their finishing abilities. All of them got ample opportunities but failed to make an impact as far as scoring was concerned and it was once again left to the veteran to settle the nerves with his brace that took his international tally to 82 goals, behind Cristiano Ronaldo (117) and Lionel Messi (86).

From Afghan's point of view it will be a do-or-die match and the physically stronger team would look to make it count against the Indian backline of Roshan Singh, Sandesh Jhingan, Anwar Ali and Akash Mishra, who impressed the most in their outing against Cambodia. In such a scenario, the onus



Sunil Chhetri (R) and Sandesh Jhingan share a smile during India's training session ahead of the Afghanistan game

would be on the attacking line-up to "kill the contest" by scoring early goals, something that buried Afghanistan against Hong Kong. The fitness of Roshan has been a concern after their outing against Cambodia and Stimac said they would assess his niggles on the sidelines of their training. India, who enjoy a 6-1 record on head-to-head from 10 meetings

against the 'Lions of Khorasan', however, have not won against them since January 3, 2016 in the SAFF Championships. Since then the Blue Tigers have endured two 1-1 draws in the World Cup Qualifiers, something that was highlighted by Afghanistan coach Anoush Dastgir, who said they are in search of 'revenge' at the Qualifier.

## Mary Kom ruled out of CWG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, June 10: Veteran Indian boxer MC Mary Kom's bid to compete at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games ended in a heartbreak here on Friday as she was forced to withdraw midway from the selection trials due to a knee injury. The six-time World Champion twisted her left knee in the opening

round of the 48kg semifinals against Haryana's Nitu. Mary Kom will thus miss the quadrennial event, where she had become the first Indian woman boxer to claim a gold medal in the last edition in 2018. "Six-time World Champion Mary Kom has withdrawn from the ongoing Women's Boxing Trials for the 2022 Commonwealth Games due to an injury she suffered Friday," the Boxing Federation of

India (BFI) said in a statement. Mary Kom fell down in the very first round of the bout. She tried to keep going after receiving medical assistance but after a couple of punches, she struggled to keep balance as she clutched her left knee and looked in a lot of pain. The Manipuri had to be carried out of the ring. Mark Kom, whose left knee was heavily bandaged after the fall, was then taken to the hospital for scans.

## Sindhu, Lakshya bow out of Indonesia Masters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, June 10: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and rising star Lakshya Sen made quarterfinal exits in their respective singles events, ending India's challenge in the Indonesia Open Super Series 500 tournament here Friday. Sen was first to be eliminated as the 20-year-old went down fighting and forced a decider against his higher-seeded Chinese Taipei rival Chou Tien Chen 21-16, 21-21, 21-14.

India's last hope then rested on Sindhu but the former world champion went down without a fight to her old foe Ratchanon Intanon 21-21, 10-21 in a match lasting a little over half an hour. The 27-year-old was at her dominating best and looked at ease with both in attacks and defence and the Indian was never able to fight-back and suffered her fifth straight loss against her Thai rival. After pocketing the first game easily, Intanon looked even more furious

in the second and raced to a 10-point lead before sealing the issue in 33 minutes to improve her head-to-head against Sindhu to 9-4. Sindhu, who made a semifinal exit in the Thailand Open last month, had earned a hard-fought victory over Gregoria Mariska Tunjung to enter the quarterfinals. Earlier, Sen bounced back from behind to level the second game but the third-seed from Chinese Taipei was superior in the decider with a 21-16, 12-21, 21-14 scoreline in his favour.

This was Sen's second straight defeat against Chou in less than a month. Sen lost to his Chinese Taipei rival 19-21, 21-13, 17-21 during the group stage of the Thomas Cup, before turning it around to script a historic triumph. The World No.4 from Chinese Taipei annexed three points in a row to build a six-point lead midway into the decider. Sen was engaged in some superb rallies towards the end and even saved two match points but his valiant effort was not good enough.

# CRICKET FEVER GRIPS CAPITAL CITY



## Teams arrive in Bhubaneswar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, June 10: Players of the Indian and South African cricket teams reached here Friday amid tight security ahead of their T20I game at the iconic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, June 12. The two teams landed at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) around 2pm as hundreds of cricket enthusiasts gathered to welcome them.

Fans gathered in large numbers at the airport, outside their hotel and on both sides of the road between the two places for one glimpse of the cricketing stars. The players were welcomed at the airport by members of the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA). They were taken to the hotel in special buses amid tight security. Ahead of the Sunday's match, Director-General (DG) of Odisha Police SK Bansal along with senior officers of the police and the district administration took stock of the arrangements at the Barabati Stadium. "All arrangements have been made to provide foolproof security to the players, and ensure a smooth match on Sunday and practice Saturday. The preparations to make necessary arrangements started a month

back," Bansal told reporters. He also urged spectators to follow the guidelines regarding entry and exit routes. A security mock drill was conducted for the first time ahead of the international match. "Tickets have been sold on both the online and offline modes, OCA secretary Sanjay Behera said. Cuttack Collector BS Chayni said that a large number of VIPs and dignitaries are expected to come to the stadium for the match. "As the Chief Minister has been invited, he may come to the stadium too. However, we are yet to receive any official communication on this regard," Chayni said.



- 1 Artistes perform with conch shells in front of the City hotel ahead of the teams' arrival
- 2 Hotel staff welcomes Team South Africa's Anrich Nortje, while Quinton de Kock (C) and Marco Jansen wait for their turn
- 3 India skipper Rishabh Pant receives bouquet from an Odisha Cricket Association official
- 4 India vice-captain Hardik Pandya waves hand to the mediapersons while entering the hotel
- 5 Cricket enthusiasts eagerly wait to catch a glimpse of the players outside the hotel as police officials watch
- 6 Artistes perform 'Ghoda Nacha' to welcome the teams outside the hotel

